■ SPORTS / A22

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The scoop on Super: Pinoy SUPERiority awakened

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■ NEWS / A2

Oakwood mutiny leaders split up

MMDA going bananas in greening of metropolis

NA KU, BAKA MAGBABAAN ANG MGA UNGGOY DITO

By Tarra V. Quismundo

METRO MANILA IS GOING bananas—literally.

As part of its greening project, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) will be

MMDA/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Foreign ministers of the 10-member Associ-

ASEAN/ A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Saturday, December 10, 2005 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 2 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Isafp told: Name brains

Senators demand answers, threaten intelligence budget cut

By TJ Burgonio
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

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ISAFP TOLD/ A18

No shake-up yet at Ayala with demise of matriarch

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THERE ARE NO BARBARIANS AT the gate of one of the country's largest and most venerable business houses. At least not yet.

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The passing of McMicking, who was known to have wielded a strong influence in the family business and was said to be consulted on the most senior appointments, has spurred speculation that changes are imminent in the 171-year-old company.

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Zobel said that his family "has always been forward-looking and has always planned for future events in advance."

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NO SHAKE-UP/ A8

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EDWIN BACASMAS

Peso extends streak, hits 2-½-year high

By Doris C. Dumlao

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"You have businesses just focusing on doing their business and then adjusting to the times," Montinola said.

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PESO/ A17

No rape: Subic driver contradicts his 1st affidavit

By Tonette Orejas
and Ansbert Joaquin
PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Timoteo Soriano Jr., driver of the van used by the US Marines accused of raping a 22-year-old Filipino woman at the Subic Bay Freeport on Nov. 1, has denied witnessing the crime inside his vehicle.

In a three-page sworn statement submitted yesterday by his lawyer, Jose Raulito Paras, Soriano also said he was coerced by Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority investigator Paquito Torres into claiming that he had witnessed the gang rape of the woman.

Paras said his client was neither a witness for the woman nor an accomplice of the US servicemen in the rape that supposedly took place in his van as it drove through the Subic port on the night of Nov. 1.

Soriano, 31, as well as the woman and her alleged rapists, was not present at the third and final hearing of the case's preliminary investigation held yesterday.

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NO RAPE/ A6

PHILIPPINE

PDI PHOTO

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MISS RP/ A6

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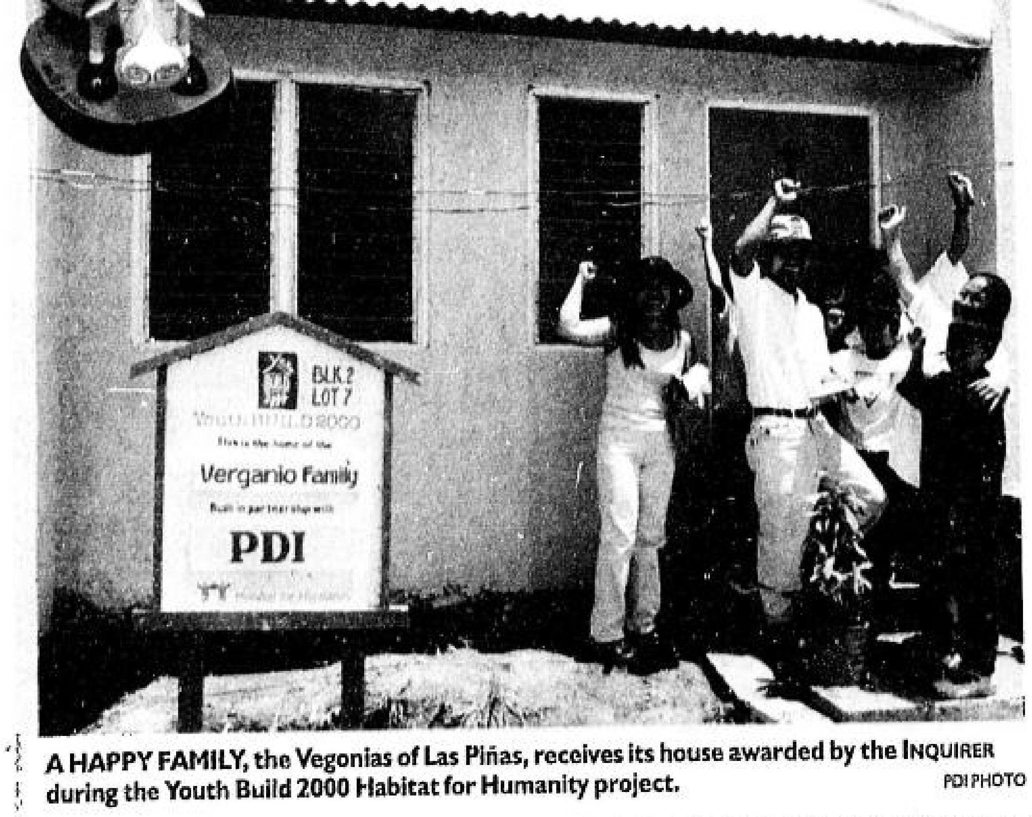

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PDI PHOTO

Making a difference in Pinoys' daily life

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NO SHAKE-UP/ A8

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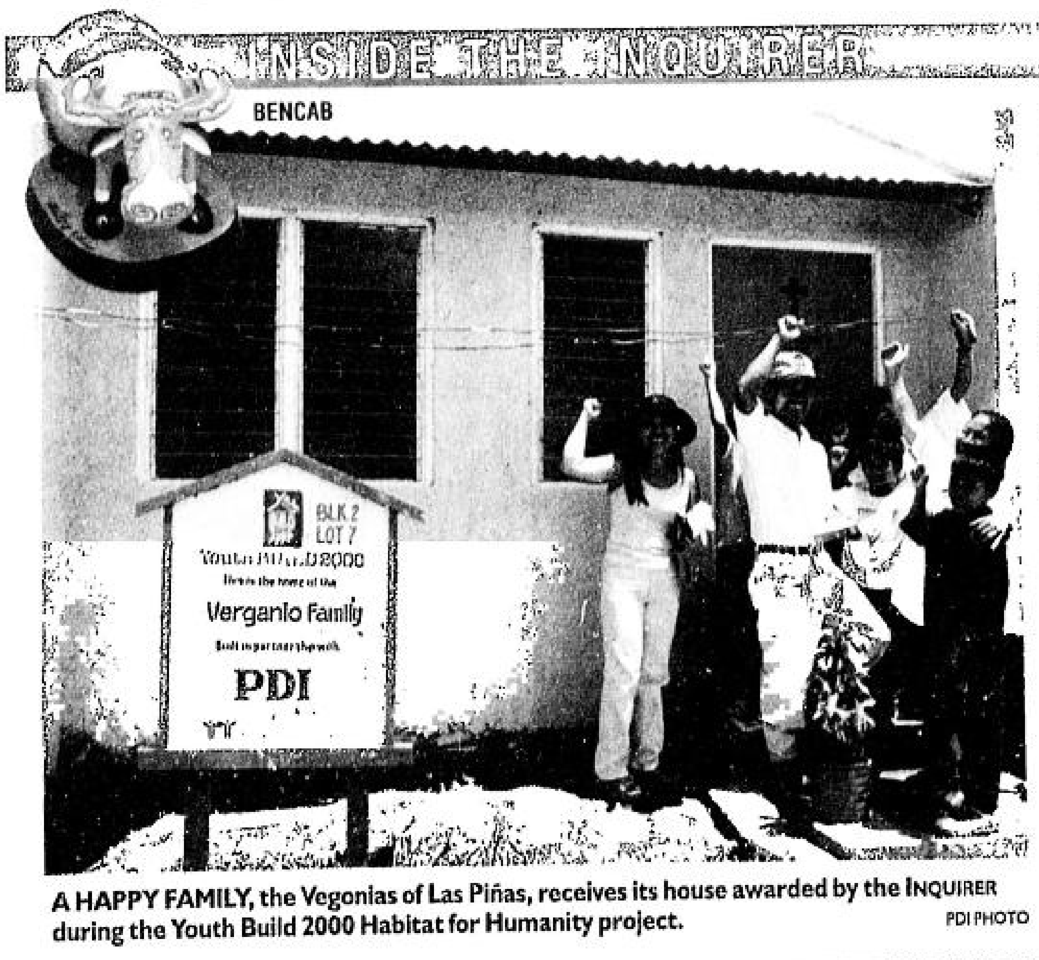

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MAKING/ A8

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon and Visayas will have occasional rains becoming frequent rains which may trigger flashfloods and landslides over Quezon, Bicol region and Eastern Visayas. Mindanao will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be mostly cloudy with rainshowers.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/12/10/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Oakwood mutiny leaders split up

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE SIX ALLEGED CORE LEADers of the 2003 Oakwood mutiny have split up and parted ways, literally.

Two of the officers who recently apologized to President Macapagal-Arroyo for a second time were transferred last week from their detention cell in Camp Aguinaldo to Fort Bonifacio to prevent "physical confrontations" with the four others, according to Philippine Army Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon.

Army Captains Gerardo Gambala and Milo Maestrecampo were among 13 junior officers of the Army who issued a manifesto last Sept. 21 acknowledging they had "made a mistake with our actions at Oakwood" and promising to "help in rebuilding what we have destroyed in the AFP."

Lawyer fired

The four other alleged core leaders who continue to be held in Camp Aguinaldo—Marine Captains Nicanor Faeldon and Gary Alejano and Navy Lieutenants Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug—did not sign the manifesto, titled "A Personal Letter to Our Commander."

END OF THE LINE. Army Captains Milo Maestrecampo and Gerardo Gambala and Navy Lt(s.g.) Antonio Trillanes break ranks. PDI PHOTO

The manifesto and the firing by the 13 officers of their long-time lawyer Roel Pulido last Oct. 12 for "conflict of interest" sparked speculation that they had entered into a deal with the government. No concessions to them have been disclosed thus far.

"Gambala and Maestrecampo have been transferred upon orders of the court probably to avoid physical confrontations," Esperon told reporters. He said there was animosity between Gambala and Maestrecampo and the four others.

Disowned

In September 2004, all six alleged core leaders apologized to the President on behalf of all those who had taken part in the mutiny and took back allegations of corruption against former AFP chief Angelo Reyes, who was then defense secretary, and other military officials.

Gambala and Maestrecampo were disowned by the rest of the Magdalo group shortly after the issuance of the second manifesto.

Esperon would not say if they have struck a deal with the 13 Army junior officers although he acknowledged that the President "would welcome any expression of support especially from those who stood against her."

Undergoing trial

A total of 29 junior officers, including the six alleged core leaders, are being tried by a court-martial on charges of conduct unbecoming officers and gentlemen. They are being tried separately by a civilian court in Makati on charges of carrying out a coup d'etat.

Apart from them, 68 other junior officers who took part in the July 27, 2003 Oakwood mutiny are being court-martialed.

Last May, 184 enlisted personnel who joined the mutiny were released after they were allowed to enter into a plea bargain.

Expect more heavy rains, Pagasa warns

By Norman Bordadora

THE WEATHER BUREAU PAGASA YESTERday warned that heavy rains would continue over the weekend in most of the eastern side of the country. This was due to the northeast monsoon and the easterly wave prevailing in southern Philippines.

Nathaniel Cruz, chief of Pagasa's weather branch, told the INQUIRER that the public should be prepared for possible landslides and flash floods in the regions of southern Tagalog, Bicol and eastern Visayas and the northeastern part of Mindanao.

"There will be rains in the areas of Quezon, Bicol, southern Tagalog and eastern Visayas—heavy rains," Cruz said in an interview. "[That's] why in our advisory we always give warnings of landslides and flash floods."

Metro Manila would also experience scattered rain showers because of the northeast monsoon.

Asked if there was a severe weather disturbance—tropical depression, storm or typhoon—threatening the country, Cruz said no.

"The rains are expected to [wane] next week," he added.

DPWH to recycle old bridges to build new ones

By Leila B. Salaverria

TO SAVE MONEY, THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBlic Works and Highways will revive the old strategy of recycling old bridges to make new ones.

DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday said the department would dismantle old, unusable bridges and use their steel components to construct new bridges.

"Instead of selling steel components from old bridges as junk, we can still use them to construct smaller bridges, or turn them over to LGUs for use in the construction of barangay bridges," Ebdane said in a statement.

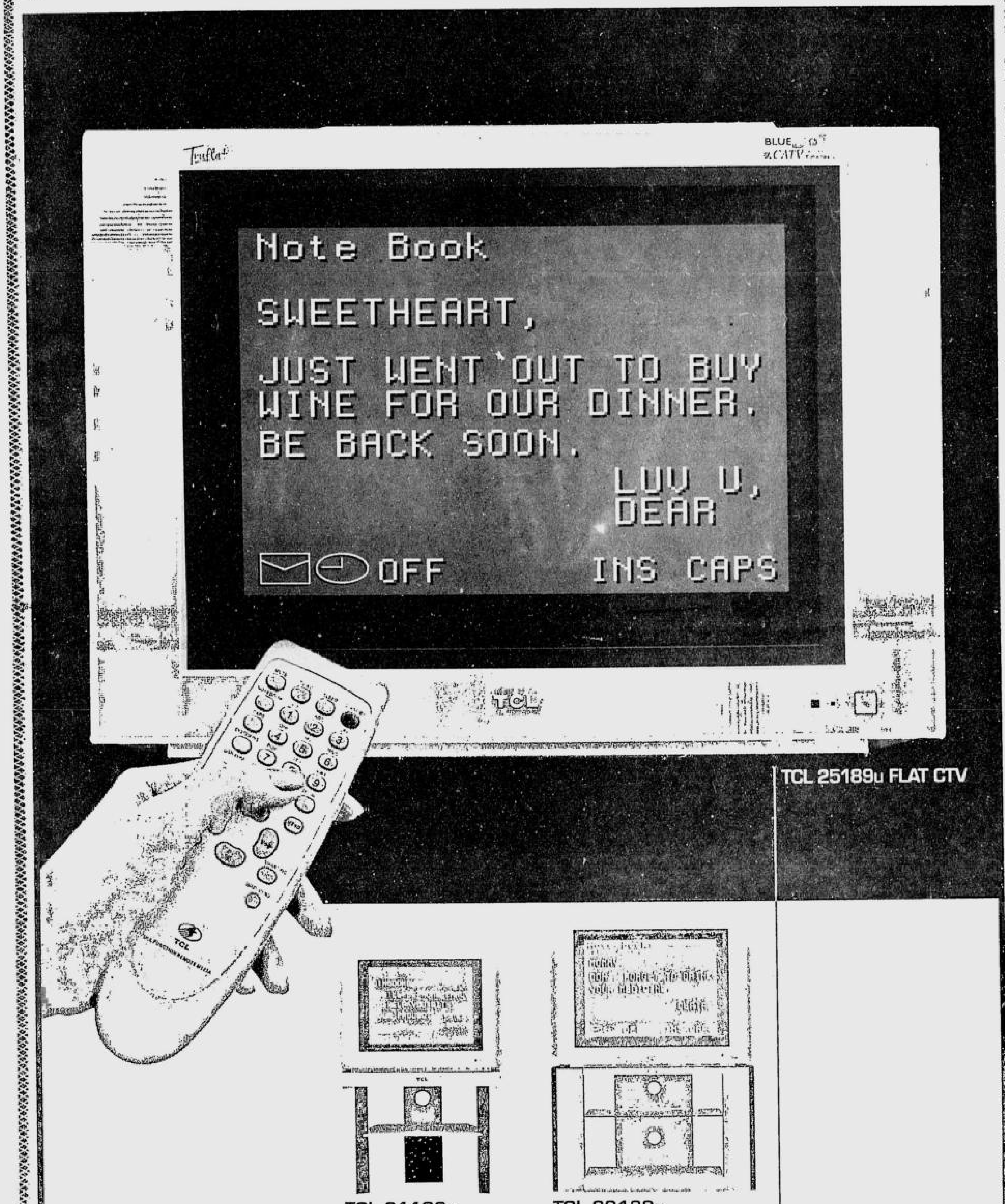
The official said the department benefited from the strategy when it was first implemented in 1995 under the term of former secretary Gregorio Vigilar.

During Vigilar's term, the DPWH built a 400-lineal meter bridge in Anda, Pangasinan using the steel members of the old Carmen Bridge and was able to save P87.7 million. The bridge would have cost P194 million had it not used recycled materials.

Ebdane's announcement of the new strategy came while several DPWH officials were facing complaints before the Office of the Ombudsman for the alleged questionable building of bridges as part of the President's Bridge Program.

A group claimed that the DPWH had misused funds obtained from loans, building bridges leading to dead ends or situated in public properties or in the middle of rice fields.

The DPWH denied misusing the funds.



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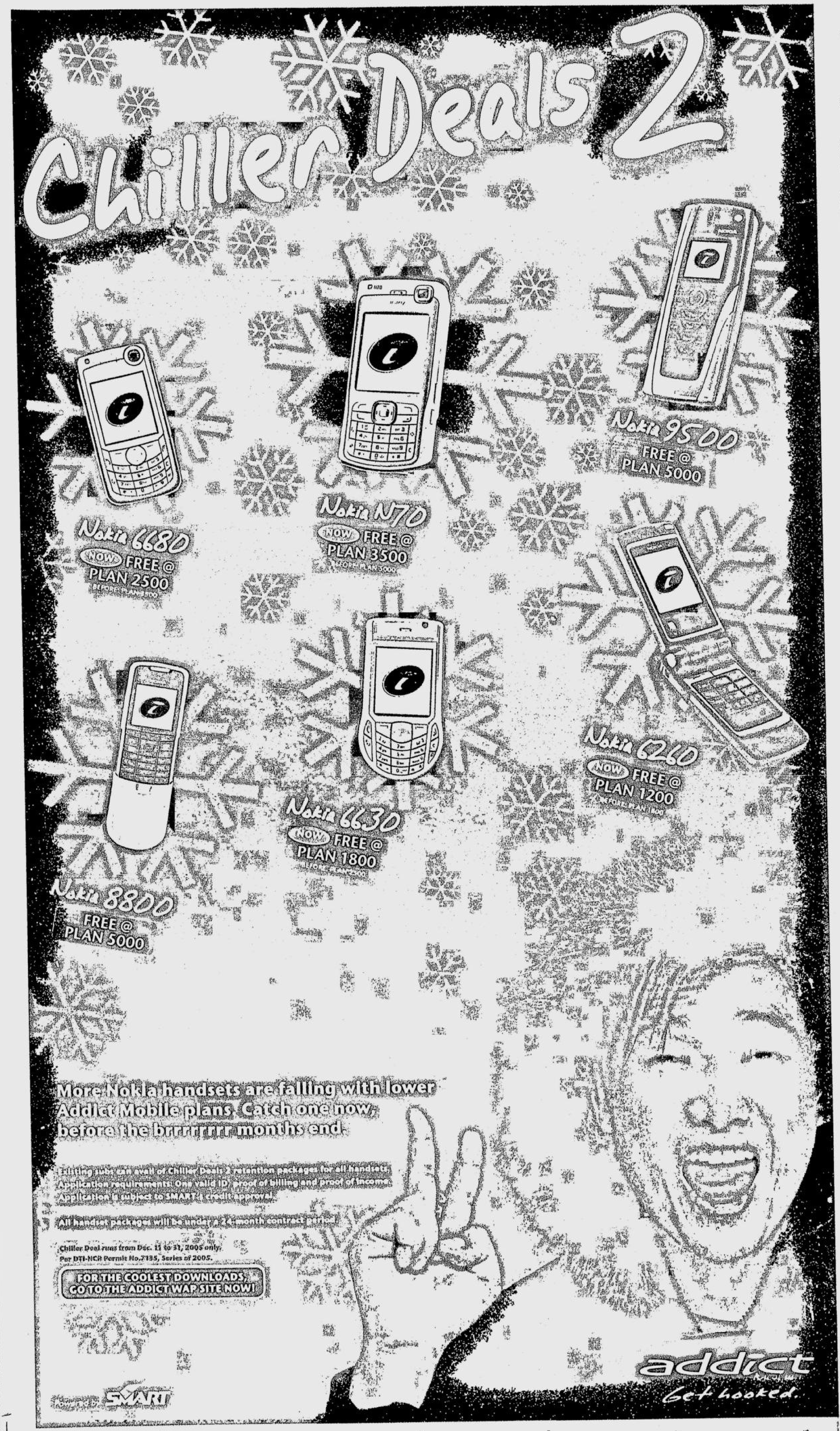

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Drilon: 'Hello Garci' behind GMA -30 rating

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza

THE UNRESOLVED "HELLO GARCI" ISSUE has dragged down President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval rating in the latest Social Weather Stations survey, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Despite improvements on the economic front, Ms Arroyo got a negative 30, her second lowest mark since becoming President in 2001.

"To me these ratings are a reflection that people are not happy with the way various issues are handled, particularly the Garcillano episode," Drilon said.

Wiretapped conversations allegedly between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, wherein they supposedly connived to rig the May 2004 election, had adversely affected the Arroyo administration.

After going into hiding for six months, Garcillano resurfaced to deny he was part of any fraud.

But Drilon said Garcillano's and Malacañang's statements were not enough to put closure to the scandal.

"No matter what you say ... in the people's view, [it's] not over until the truth comes out. This belief [has affected] the popularity rating of the President," Drilon said. "This Garcillano episode must be resolved to the satisfaction of the people."

In contrast, administration lawmakers blamed alleged opposition "black propaganda" and public apprehension over the Expanded Value Added Tax for the negative 30 approval rating of the President.

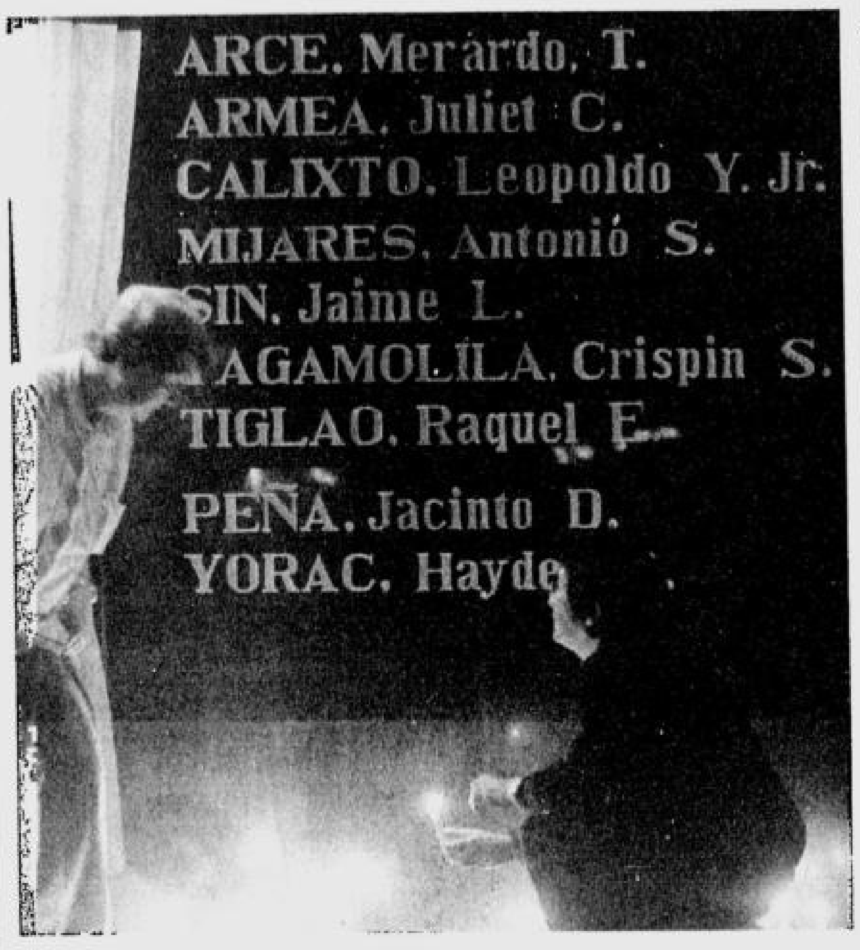
House Deputy Majority Leader Antonio Cerilles (Zamboanga del Sur) and Bulacan Rep. Lorna Silverio said the drop in the Ms Arroyo's approval rating in the SWS survey conducted from Nov. 27 to Dec. 4, showed that partisan politics still overshadowed the country's economic gains.

They said the President's rating would rise gradually "due to important economic and governance reforms now in place" which would "boost the economy as shown by the peso and stock markets' surge and growing investor confidence."

Silverio said "fluctuating" public opinion was "normal in an environment of political turmoil" that diminished attention on the administration's gains on the economic front.

"We still expect Ms Arroyo's ratings to eventually rise but this will come gradually. Besides, the SWS survey was done at the height of everyone's apprehension over the EVAT," she said.

Cerilles said the survey results only highlighted the problem of a presidential system of government "where too much focus is put on personalities and not on the efforts of the national leadership in improving the economy and well-being of the people."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ARMEA. Juliet C.
CALIXTO. Leopoldo Y. Jr.
MIJARES. Antonió S.
SIN. Jaime L.
AGAMOLILA. Crispin S.
TIGLAO. Raquel E.
PEÑA. Jacinto D.
YORAC. Hayde

HONORING HEROES ERIK ARAZAS
Relatives light candles and offer flowers to honor the nine latest additions to the Bantayog ng Bayani Wall of Remembrance for Heroes and Martyrs in Quezon City.

NPA eyed in attack on Mike A building

By Luige A. del Puerto

MILITARY INVESTIGATORS ARE exploring the possibility that the New People's Army were behind the strafing of a building owned by First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo in Makati and other minor bombings in Metro Manila on Wednesday.

But National Capital Region Police Office chief Director Vidal Querol said yesterday no evidence had yet been found to link the communist rebels to the attacks.

Querol said that so far, the police had only established that the material used in bombing three cars in the cities of Parañaque, Quezon City and Caloocan was black powder, a low explosive.

But a less reticent Philippine National Police spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil supported the military's claim that the NPA were responsible for the attacks.

"Based on historical records of related incidents, the Communist Party of the Philippines-NPA has been known to employ similar attacks on soft targets," he said, calling attention to attacks on gasoline stations by the communist rebels in the past.

"It is also bolstered by inside information gathered by the PNP from its sources. It should be noted that the CPP-NPA has stepped up its terrorist activities over the past 60 days in different parts of the country," he said.

Erap followers march in Makati, seek UN intervention

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SAYING HIS HUMAN RIGHTS had been trampled upon, supporters of former President Joseph Estrada marched on a busy Makati intersection yesterday to ask the United Nations to look into his four-year detention on plunder charges.

"We would like to bring to the attention of the UN the plight of Erap because of his detention and there has been delayed justice for his case," said Linggoy Alcuaz, one of the leaders of the National Coordinating Council for Volunteers (NCCV), which spearheaded the march.

Members of the pro-Estrada groups Freedom (Free and Restore Erap Estrada for Democracy and Order Movement), the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), and allied groups under the Oust Gloria Coalition gathered at the Makati Central Fire Station on the corner of Gil Puyat and Ayala Avenues around 10 a.m, and pushed toward RCBC Plaza, which houses the office of Zahidul Huque, UN Population Fund Representative in the Philippines.

A handful of representatives, including Edno Joson, who served as National Food Authority administrator under the Estrada administration, Herman Tiu Laurel, and PMP National Capital Region chair Romy Reyes, met with Huque and handed over a letter asking the UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to intercede on Estrada's behalf.

"Justice and protection of President Joseph Estrada's rights can no longer be assured in the Philippines. For this reason, we turn to the international community and justice system," said Freedom's letter.

It said that Estrada, ousted by a popular uprising in 2001, has languished in detention long enough, as his plunder trial in the Sandiganbayan has yet to be concluded.

"We bring our appeal to [Annan] to take cognizance of this great injustice to President Joseph Estrada and the Filipino people, and to take action to protect President Joseph Estrada and the people's rights and democratic freedom," the letter said.

GMA announces P5,000 cash gift for gov't workers

By Christine O. Avendaño

WITH TWO WEEKS TO CHRISTmas, President Macapagal-Arroyo announced on Thursday a P5,000 cash gift to all national government employees, which they will get before Dec.15, and pledged salary increases for all of over one million of them next year.

"To all of you, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year," the President said after announcing the bonus during the National Convention of Government Employees in Malacañang.

She said the government could afford the bonus, which is on top of the 13th month pay, because of savings made by various national agencies.

"I have asked the Department of Budget and Management to collate from all the national government agencies the total of our savings so we can use that pool of national government savings (for a) uniform extra bonus for all of you," she said.

The President also told her audience that they would get a salary increase next year because Malacañang had included a "compensation adjustment fund" of P13 billion for them in the proposed 2006 national budget.

Budget Secretary Romulo Neri said that national government agencies were able to generate P5.3 billion in savings this year, thus paving the way for the granting of a P5,000 cash gift to all national government workers.

He said in a telephone interview that national government workers were likely to get the bonus before Dec.15.

But national government workers were not about to jump with joy.

"Any benefits to be given by government should be (appreciated) but if you were to ask whether this would make government employees happy, I would say that we're not that happy," said Esperanza Ocampo, president of the Philippine Government Employees Association.

Ocampo told reporters that government employees had long been expecting a salary increase, but this could be delayed further as the proposed 2006 national budget was still being discussed in Congress and would likely be passed next year.

"That's why we are appealing, if they (lawmakers) let the budget sleep its like they're saying they don't have a heart for government workers because there will be no (salary) increase in 2006," she said.

Ocampo also said that her group had submitted to the tripartite Industrial Peace Council of the Department of Labor and Employment a proposed package of nonmonetary benefits for government workers in case the government could not afford a wage hike.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, December 10, 2005
2nd Week of Advent

1st Reading: Sir 48:1-4,9-11
Gospel: Matthew 17:10-13

As they were coming down the mountain, the disciples asked Jesus, "Why do the teachers of the Law say that Elijah must come first?" And Jesus answered, "So it is: first comes Elijah to set everything as it has to be. But I tell you, Elijah has already come and they did not recognize him, but treated him as they pleased. And they will also make the Son of Man suffer."

Then the disciples understood that Jesus was referring to John the Baptist.

Commentary

Questions about Elijah who needs to come and set things as they have to be so that the long-awaited One can come and be recognized. But Jesus is blunt: Elijah has come and we missed him. Not only that, we treated him as we pleased—we rejected him and killed him as we have all the prophets that called for justice for the poor, peace upon the earth and hearts made pure by fasting, almsgiving and obedience to the laws of God. And Jesus knows that the same fate awaits him: the Son of Man. Jesus comes and he comes to suffer with us, to suffer for us, to suffer because of us and to suffer and transform all suffering in his own body. Suffering is a part of living. Do we ever suffer for telling the truth, for standing up for others, being the voice of the poor or standing with the Son of Man? Come stand fast.

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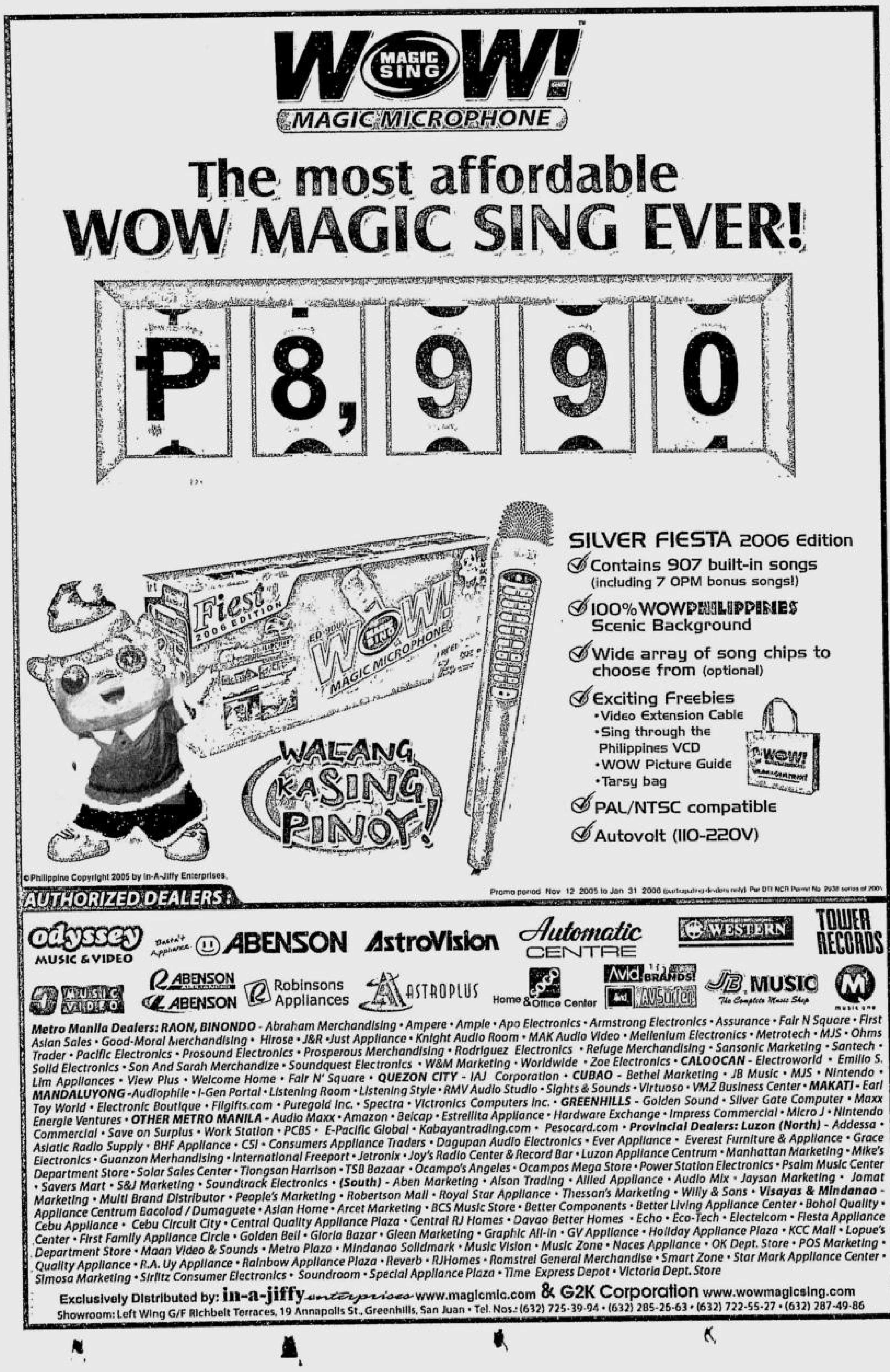
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Politicians seen as most corrupt worldwide

In RP and 12 other nations, more than 50% believe corruption has worsened

LONDON – POLITICAL PARTIES but also parliaments, police and judicial systems are the most corrupt bodies in the world, and more than half of respondents in the Philippines and 12 other nations believe corruption has increased a lot in their countries, according to a global study of perceptions of corruption published Friday.

Corruption barometer

For the second year running, respondents in 45 out of 69 countries worldwide put political parties at the top of the list for kickbacks and bribes, global campaign group Transparency International said.

They were followed by parliaments or legislatures and the legal system and judiciary, TI's 55,000-person survey "Global Corruption Barometer 2005" found.

The problem also extends to education, with serious consequences for students and the development of countries concerned, TI said in a separate report titled "Stealing the Future: Corruption in the Classroom".

Anti-corruption day

Both documents were released to coincide with the United Nations international anti-corruption day.

Overall, citizens of 48 countries believed corruption had increased over the last three years while citizens of six other countries — Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Kenya and Singapore — said it had decreased.

In 13 countries — Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Israel, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines and Venezuela — more than 50 percent felt corruption had increased a lot.

Africans and Latin Americans felt most negative about the past.

Pessimistic

The future offered a more mixed bag: 12 countries expected corruption to fall but 34 countries were pessimistic about turning the situation around.

TI chair Huguette Labelle described corruption as "a major problem of our times."

"Its most deadly impact is on the poor," she said. "If people are pessimistic, they will not feel they can do something about it.

Call for alarm

"The results of the survey are a call for alarm for people. It can change, but it requires leadership, will and pressure."

The 85-page education report cites evidence of corruption in 10 countries including bribes to secure a child's admission to school or to pass university exams.

"A basic textbook and a good grade should not depend on greasing the palm of a corrupt teacher or administrator," said Labelle.

"Poor parents who are forced to pay up may choose instead to feed their families, leaving a generation gap of students without a proper education and perpetuating the poverty trap," she added.

Basic values

The report said such practices in schools and universities contradicted "basic values of integrity, equity and the public good" and risked perpetuating the problem by fostering a negative perception of authority and institutions.

Giving examples, it said an opinion poll at two major universities in Bosnia-Hercegovina revealed that bribes for passing exams and selling diplomas were commonplace on campus.

Cost of corruption

In Brazil, a study found that poor municipalities lost up to 55 percent of their federal school subsidies to fraud in procurement.

In Mexico, the average family reportedly paid $30 dollars each year in kickbacks and bribes for access to supposedly free education.

Efforts are, however, being made to combat the problem, TI said, citing parent-teacher associations in Zambia which control school finances as a successful anti-fraud measure. *AFP*

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No rape: Subic driver contradicts his 1st affidavit

From page A1

dent in the case.

Soriano said there was "absolutely no cause" for his inclusion.

Not recanting

Paras, however, declined to call Soriano's sworn statement dated Dec. 8 a recantation of the first statement dated Nov. 2, or a counter-affidavit.

But in his second statement, Soriano contradicted his first, which, he said, he was forced into signing.

While Soriano's first statement recounted in detail the supposed events on the night of Nov. 1, the second statement only mentioned that he drove some American servicemen on "liberty" in Subic on the night of Nov. 1 until 1:30 a.m. of the next day.

Jalandoni noted the Dec. 8 document, and asked that it be subscribed to him by Soriano before Dec. 19, the extended deadline for the submission of memoranda by the opposing parties.

The prosecutor said Soriano remained an accomplice because, based on the evidence submitted, he had shown "some complicity" in the alleged rape.

Exasperation

Minerva Ambrosio, one of the lead lawyers for the woman, expressed exasperation at the turn of events.

But Jalandoni said Soriano's Nov. 2 sworn statement remained on the record.

Ambrosio countered that the statement might be deemed inadmissible because Soriano made it in the absence of his lawyer—a violation of the Miranda Doctrine that guarantees the right of the accused to have a lawyer present during questioning.

After the hearing, Ambrosio told the INQUIRER that losing Soriano as a witness had not weakened the case.

"It's the complainant's statement that will see her complaint through," Ambrosio said.

With Soriano wanting out of the case, only Ma. Fe Castro, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority security officer Noel Paule and two Neptune Bar and Restaurant security guards are left as witnesses.

All three were not present at yesterday's hearing.

Correa's affidavit

At the last hearing on Nov. 29, five of the six US servicemen submitted their version of events in sworn statements, disputing the allegation of rape and suggesting there was "consensual sex."

The sixth soldier has yet to submit his sworn statement.

At yesterday's hearing, the lawyers of two respondents—Corporal Corey Burris and Lance Corporal Albert Lara—submitted an affidavit of their fellow Marine, Corporal Juan Victor Correa III.

In the two-page statement sworn before the judge advocate of the US Marine Corps at Naha, Japan, Correa said he did "not remember" seeing Burris and Lara, as well as the co-accused—Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis—"hanging, dancing or talking with any Filipina."

Correa also said he, Burris, Lara and one Corporal Balaszek ate together at a pizza parlor and saw Burris and Lara walk to their ship.

Soriano's account

In his Dec. 8 statement, Soriano said he was accosted at the gates of the Subic Bay Freeport as he was leaving and brought to the "Subic headquarters"—an apparent reference to the SBMA's Intelligence and Investigation Service Office.

He said that he saw a number of American officials there, and that in an office, SBMA investigator Torres showed him his lost trip ticket.

This was Soriano's account, as stated in his statement:

Torres asked Soriano if he had witnessed a rape inside the Starex van that he was driving

He answered: "None."

Torres then punched him twice in the back, an action that was witnessed by an unnamed official and a Filipino from the US Embassy.

The two witnesses later went out of the office, leaving Soriano and Torres behind.

Torres asked Soriano some questions, typed his answers, and then showed him a copy of his statement.

"I complained when I read in the document that I claimed having witnessed a gang rape," Soriano said.

He refused to sign it.

The following morning, Soriano was again brought to the headquarters and told to sign the statement.

"Tired and without sleep, combined with fear of being involved in the case, I decided to sign the document," he said.

He was sent home afterward.

To interview victim

Jalandoni told the INQUIRER that he wanted to hear the woman's story before wrapping up the case.

He said the woman's credibility should be established.

"I want to meet her, interview her, before we prepare the resolution. That's an ideal situation. I'm willing to meet her outside the [hearing] proceedings," Jalandoni said.

The accused Marines are being held in the custody of the US Embassy in Manila.

Washington has not responded to a request by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs to transfer custody of the soldiers to local authorities.

"We will resolve the case before Christmas," Reuters quoted Jalandoni as saying.

Outside Olongapo's Hall of Justice, dozens of members of the militant women's alliance Gabriela protested. They demanded the scrapping of the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement, which allows US soldiers to train and advise Philippine troops.

Miss RP is odds-on …

From page A1

Aguilar herself has her heart set on winning the Philippines' first Miss World title.

The country has produced two semifinalists and two runners-up for Miss World, including Evangeline Pascual, who placed second to the United States' Marjorie Wallace in 1973, and Ruffa Gutierrez, who was second runner-up in 1993.

In the last three years, the Philippines has been the only country to consistently place in the pageant's finals. Katherine Manalo was a finalist in 2002, Mafae Yunon in 2003, and Karla Bautista in 2004.

Aguilar, who trained for three weeks in Bogota, Colombia, in preparation for the Miss World pageant, won the Miss Earth Philippines crown in 2001 and made it to the semifinals of the Miss Earth competition.

4-to-1 odds

Some of England's best known bookmakers—including Ladbrokes, SportingOdds and Centrebet—all had Miss Philippines winning the title at 4-to-1 odds, according to the bestbetting.co.uk website.

Miss Philippines was followed by Miss Canada Ramona Rina Amiri at between 11-1 and 12-1, Miss Iceland Unnur Birna Vilhjalmsdottir at between 12-1 and 14-1, and Miss Italy Sofia Buscoli at between 11-1 and 14-to-1.

Miss China Zhao Tingting was not among the frontrunners despite being a hometown favorite, rating between 16-to-1 and 50-to-1 by the three bookmakers.

The US-based Sportsbook.com also favored Miss Philippines and Miss Italy, both at 12-to-1 odds, followed by Miss Canada and Miss England Hamassa Khoistani.

Global voting

Twelve finalists chosen by global voting to be named today will compete for the crown against Miss Russia Yulia Ivanova, who this week won the bathing suit contest, and Miss America Virgin Islands Kmisha-Victoria Counts, who won the talent show contest.

One more finalist, who has yet to be named, will be the winner of the "Beauty With A Purpose" contest, which is based on the charity activities of the contestants.

For the first time in the pageant's 55-year history, the panel of judges to choose Miss World 2005 and the regional winners will all be former Miss Worlds.

Finals today

Over lunch in the lead-up to today's finals, the eight former beauty queens voiced their opinions about a new system that allows the global public to vote via text message, phone and e-mail.

"I don't agree at all with the e-mail, telephone voting," Brazilian Lucia Petterle, Miss World 1971, said flatly on Thursday.

She added: "As a judge, you need to see all the girls, to see how they are. We have all been through this, so we know what to look for. People calling in, do they know what they are looking for? Do they see the same things we are seeing?

"I don't think so. The judges should do the judging."

Public voting for the other 12 finalists started on Nov. 11 and ends today in the morning with fans voting as many times as they want based on materials online and from six television programs that have already been broadcast.

The public gets to elect two women each from North and South Europe, the Asia Pacific, Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean.

Another innovation

In another innovation, Petterle, a specialist in child neurology in Rio de Janiero, and her seven colleagues will judge the finals.

Although the former winners get to have the final say, Petterle and some of the others feel that perhaps the public does not have the insight to decide who are the world's most beautiful women.

"To judge, you have to see the girl. And for us, we know what to look for," said Miss World 1953, Denise Perrier Lanfranchi, from France.

"For us, it is actually easy to choose a winner. We can identify her almost immediately. You can see who separates from the water; you can tell who is intelligent by the way she moves, even before she talks," Lanfranchi said.

But Miss World 1997, Diana Hayden from India, disagreed.

"I think the public voting is a very good idea, it will bring in revenue for the contest, and that in itself should be the bottom line," Hayden said. "The people should have a say in this."

Interviews between the judges and the contestants began Thursday, according to Miss World 1975, Wilnelia Merced from Puerto Rico, who offered advice on how to win.

"You have to be yourself and you have to be natural," said Merced, the wife of British television entertainer Bruce Forsyth.

"You have to be careful of what you wear, how you stand, or smile. Of course you must look beautiful and show off your body. There are so many things to think about. You have to bring these things all together," she said. *With a report from AFP*

Manila Water

Sa East Zone*, tuluy-tuloy ang agos ng buhay.

'Yan ay dahil naging maagap at masipag ang Manila Water, isang Ayala company at concessionaire ng MWSS. Taong 1997 pa lang, sinimulan na ang mga hakbang upang masigurađong ang water supply ay laging sapat.

Una, naglaan ang Manila Water ng P19 bilyon para sa isang 5-year plan na mag-aayos hindi lamang ng mga sira't butas-butas na tubo ng tubig. Kasama rin dito ang pagpapalit at paglalagay ng makabagong water pipes.

At sa pag-ayos pa lang ng mga leaks, nakakaipon pa sila ng 350 million liters ng tubig per day. Katumbas ito ng dami ng tubig na ginagamit ng 350,000 pamilya sa isang araw.

Bukod dito, patuloy na naghahanap at nagde-develop ang Manila Water ng mga bagong pagkukunan ng tubig.

Kaya naman tag-ulan man o tag-araw, sa mga taga-East Zone, tuluy-tuloy ang agos ng tubig...at buhay.

*Marikina, Pasig, Mandaluyong, Makati, malaking bahagi ng Quezon City, San Andres at Sto. Ana sa Manila. Kasama rin dito ang San Juan, Taguig, Pateros; at Cainta, Taytay, Antipolo, San Mateo, at Montalban sa Rizal.

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NORTHRAIL-SOUTHRAIL LINK

Seoul to fund new P2.7-B rail project

By Volt Contreras

AFTER THE CONTROVERSIAL NORTHRAIL, another foreign-funded train project for Metro Manila and surrounding areas is set for a high-profile launch next week.

ROH

Visiting South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun will join President Macapagal-Arroyo in launching the Northrail-SouthRail Linkage Project, the Department of Foreign Affairs announced yesterday.

Financed through a $50.42-million (about P2.7 billion) soft loan was coursed through Korean Export-Import Bank, the NSLP will modernize the Philippine National Railway services from Caloocan to Alabang, the DFA said.

It involves the procurement of 21 diesel-fed rail cars, construction of a double-track line, and the upgrade of PNR's signals and communication systems, the agency added.

Roh will be in Manila for a state visit on Dec. 14 to 16. It will be his second meeting with Ms Arroyo in return for her state visit to Seoul in June 2003.

The two leaders will also inaugurate the RP-Korea Information Technology Center in Quezon City, and are expected to sign agreements in the areas of social security, construction, road works and mineral resources.

South Korean investments account for 36.5 percent of the total direct foreign investments that entered the country this year. Among the heaviest Korean investments are in countryside electrification.

South Korea is the ninth largest trading partner of the Philippines. Its citizens accounted for 16.5 percent of the foreign tourists who visited the country last year.

EU, Asean observe 25th anniversary of cooperation

THE EUROPEAN UNION IS CELEBRATING this week the 25th anniversary of its cooperation agreement with Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

In a statement, Benita Ferrero-Waldner, European commissioner for external relations and European neighborhood policy, noted the "profound and positive transformation" of Southeast Asia and the important changes that had swept the EU since 1980.

"Poverty has been reduced at an unprecedented pace, economies enjoy impressive growth rates, and democracy is gaining ground" in Asean, Ferrero-Waldner said.

"And while Asean has expanded to include Brunei, Burma/Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, the EU has undertaken its own enlargement, growing to 25 countries," she said, adding:

"We have also adopted the world's first ever single currency and emerged as a political entity on the world scene."

Ferrero-Waldner said the best way to celebrate the "warm and deep relationship" of the two alliances was to reflect on how much "closer" Asean and the EU had become through "working together politically, economically and socially, and at the same time looking forward to an even stronger partnership in the years to come."

The EU is Asean's second largest export market and the third largest trading partner after the United States and Japan, the commissioner noted.

She added: "Naturally, the EU supports Asean's efforts toward greater regional cooperation. The European case demonstrates that greater integration is the best guarantee of stability and prosperity.

"We await with keen interest the outcome of the next Asean summit in Kuala Lumpur, and especially the announcement of an Asean Charter reinforcing its common institutions and decision-making process.

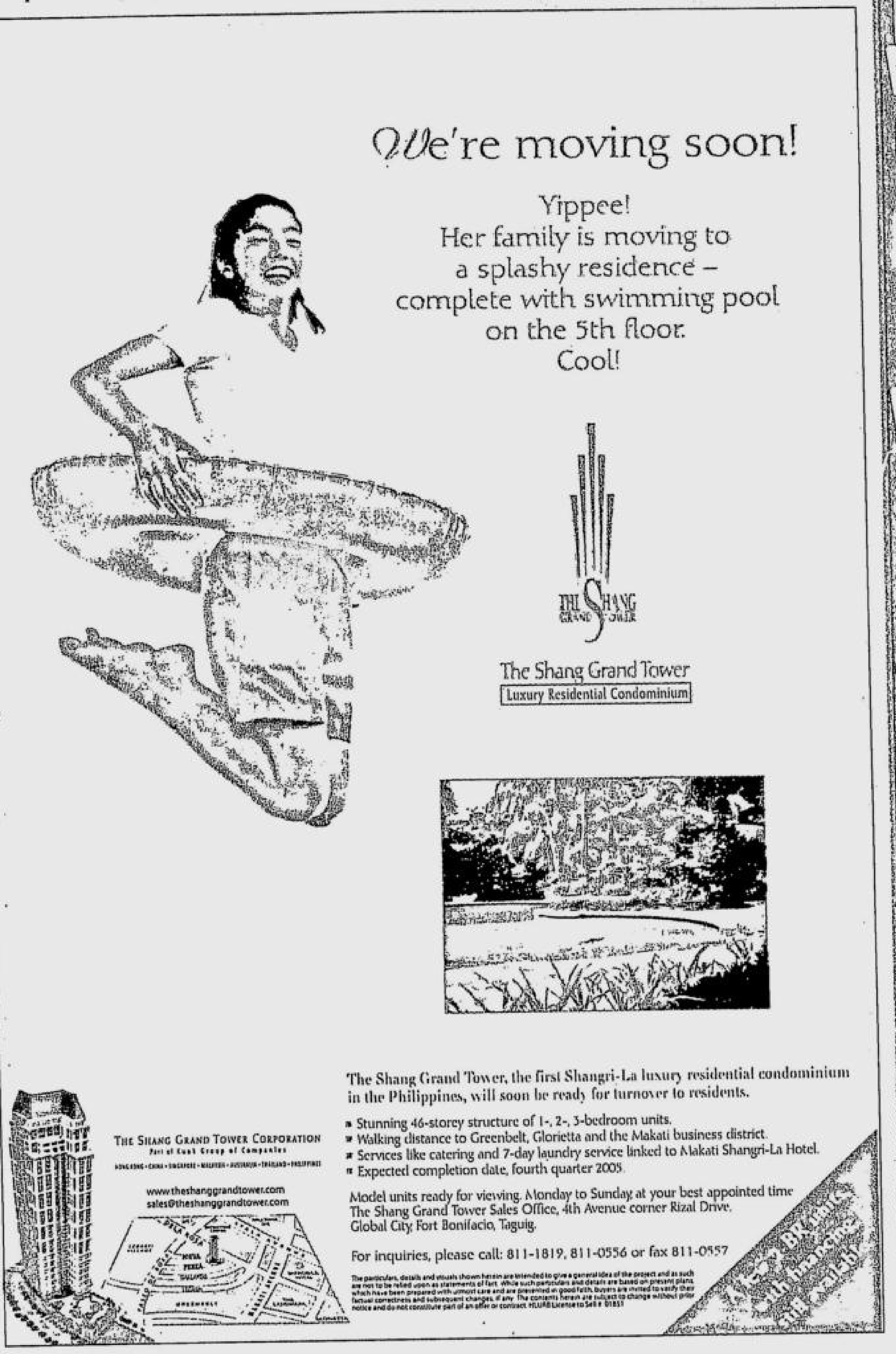
"We applaud these steps forward and as always stand ready to share our own experience with Asean in the field of integration.

"In today's globalized world, there is untold value in deepening links no matter how far geographically we may lie apart."

Mapua High '85 reunion

THE MAPUA HIGH School class of 1985 will hold its 20th year reunion on Dec. 29, 2005, at 6 p.m. at the CATS Disco in The New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati City.

For details, call Melalaine "Perez" Cobico at tel. no. 9178013079; Judith Algas, 917-8910152; or Joel Aliga, 918-8015239.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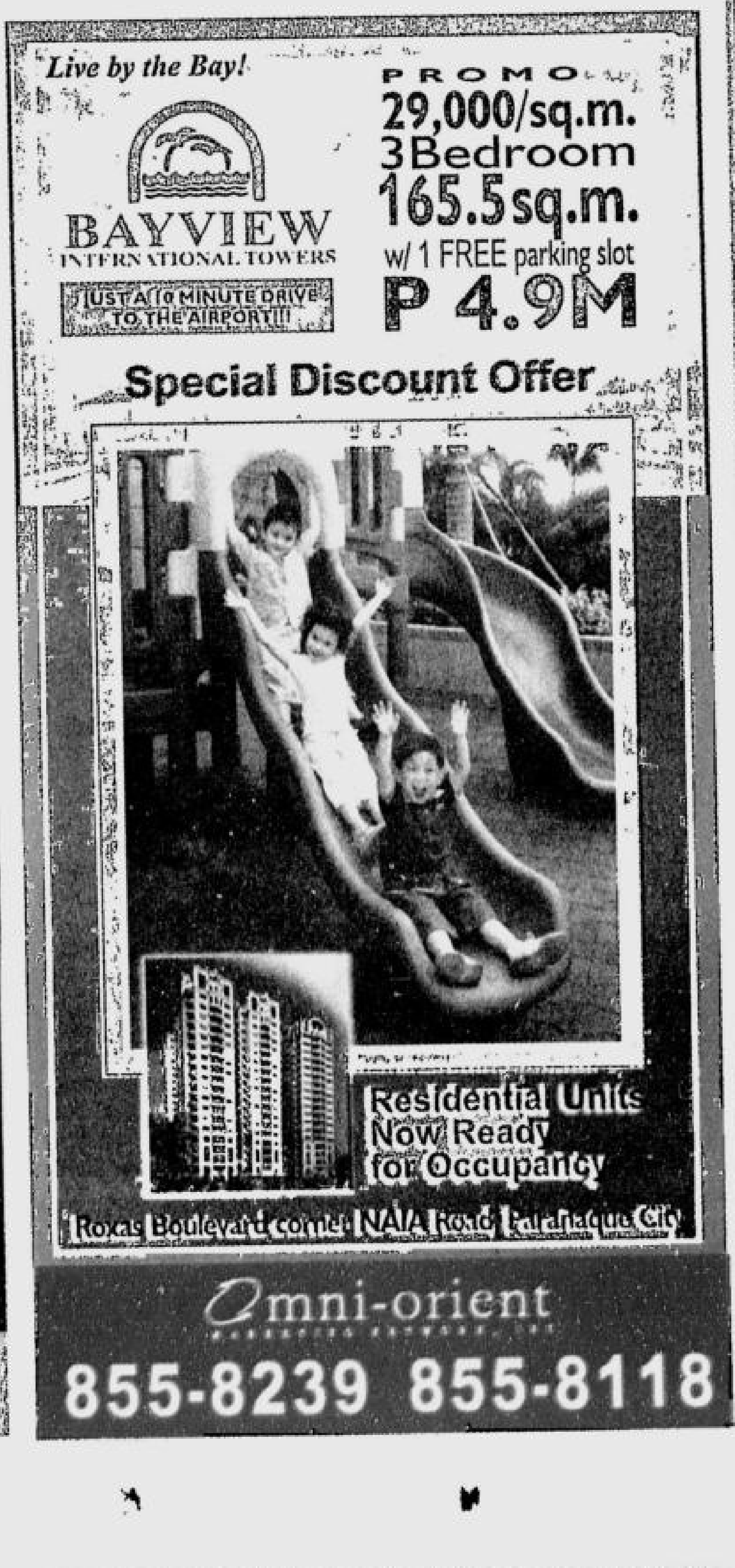
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MMDA going . . .

From page A1

planting bananas on center islands and sidewalk lawns along the Metro's major roads, according to an agency official.

MMDA General Manager Robert Nacianceno said yesterday the agency started planting some 300 banana plants along President Sergio Osmeña Avenue (formerly South Superhighway), as part of its Investors' Corridor Project.

This is the first time the agency is using banana plants to landscape major metro routes, having previously used shrubs and vines like the flowering cadena de amor to add color to Metro Manila's gloomy gray roadways.

"It's the one plant identified with rural areas. It's easy to grow and it's cheap at roughly P20 per plant," Nacianceno said. "We are looking at using other plants endemic to the Philippines and which are inexpensive."

After the agency completes the greening work on Osmeña highway, it will plant bananas along Quirino Highway and the center islands beneath the Metro Rail Transit line along Edsa.

If you get hungry ...

Asked if motorists and commuters could pick the bananas once the plants start to bear fruit, the MMDA official said yes.

"If they were on the road and they suddenly got hungry, they could have something to eat," Nacianceno said in jest.

The MMDA had been searching for practical ways to add a touch of green to the metro's bland concrete look and decided to use local plants in the landscaping of major thoroughfares.

Greening is a component of the P100-million Investors' Corridor project, a comprehensive road improvement plan seeking to redevelop a 48.7-kilometer road network connecting major tourist and business destinations in the metro.

The Investors' Corridor project hopes to clear and widen sidewalks, remove obstruction on the road right of way, repaint and fix dilapidated facades, dredge waterways and install traffic facilities, including directional and cautionary signages and footbridges.

Good 1st impression

The plan aims to give foreign visitors a good first impression of Metro Manila, which the MMDA believes is the country's showcase region.

Nacianceno said the agency would welcome suggestions from hobbyists and professionals on how best to landscape the metro's roadways.

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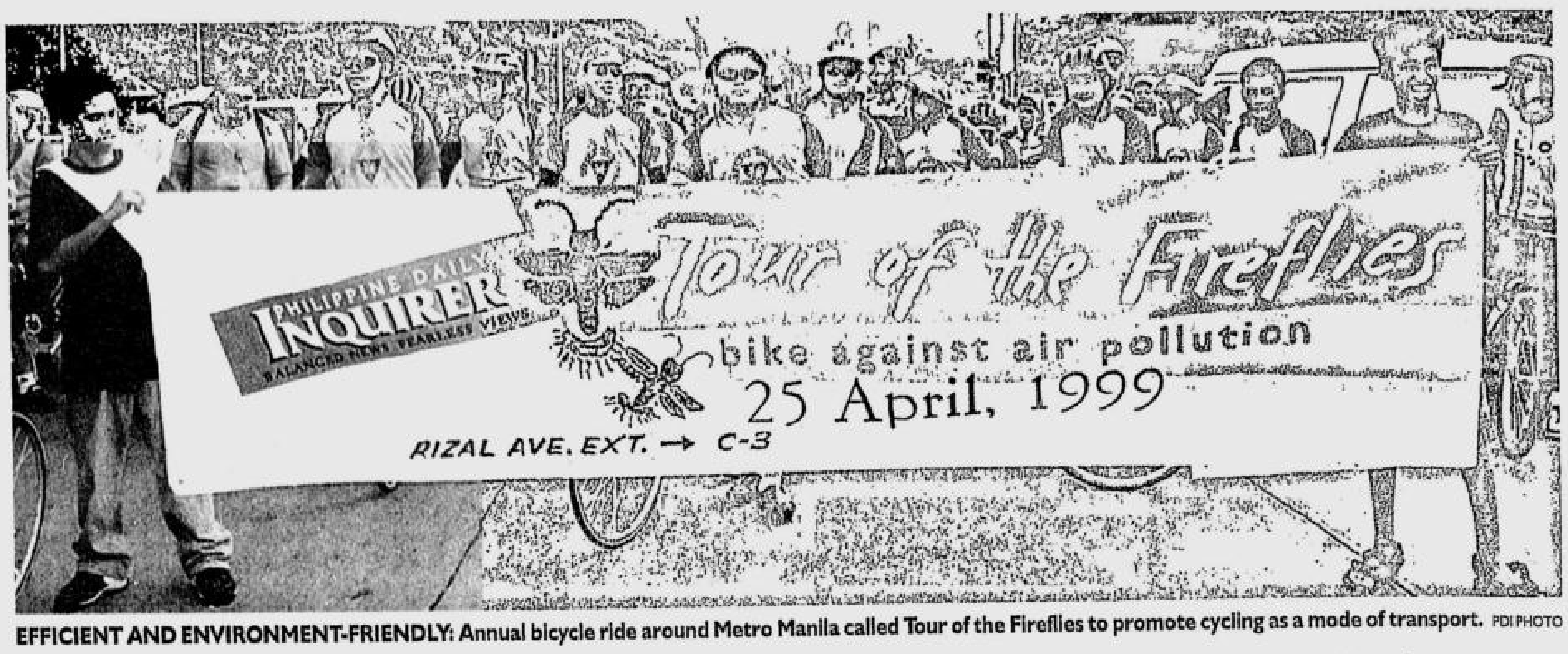
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EFFICIENT AND ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY: Annual bicycle ride around Metro Manila called Tour of the Fireflies to promote cycling as a mode of transport. PDI PHOTO

Making a difference in Pinoys' daily life

From page A1

medicines and proper health care.

Newsboy Foundation

Empowering the youth is a major endeavor of the INQUIRER's corporate responsibility. Through our Newsboy Foundation, we fuel dreams and fire hopes of our dedicated partners, the newsboys and newsgirls in the streets. Part of the sale of each PDI issue costing P18 goes to a scholarship fund that currently has a total of 400 beneficiaries.

Hands On Manila

Hands On Manila, on the other hand, is committed to empowering individuals to act as citizens and realize their ability to serve the community through volunteer work.

Tabang Mindanaw

Tabang Mindanaw responds to the long-term needs of the three most impoverished provinces in the Philippines—Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. It aims to realize its core peace and development programs such as human security for indigenous peoples, emergency humanitarian assistance, integrated return and rehabilitation and peace and development programs. It is also part of the newly formed Pagtabangan Basulta, whose objective is to uplift conditions in these areas.

World Wildlife Fund

World Wildlife Fund WWF Power Switch, is a campaign that pushes for the passing of a renewable energy bill (use of renewable energy sources versus non-renewable ones like coal). With the backing of Sen. Juan Flavier who has already filed a bill—and the Philippine National Oil Co., the Department of Energy, schools and NGOs nationwide. The campaign goal is to get at least 250,000 signatures to lobby for the bill.

BENEFICIARIES of the Children's Hour, a fund-raiser that asks individuals and companies to donate an hour's worth of their salary to specific programs that benefit marginalized kids. PDI PHOTO

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity brings deserving families and communities in need, together with volunteers and resources to build decent and affordable housing.

Tour of the Fireflies is an annual bicycle ride around the metropolis, which promotes cycling as a means of transport that is efficient and environment-friendly. The project promotes awareness of air quality issues.

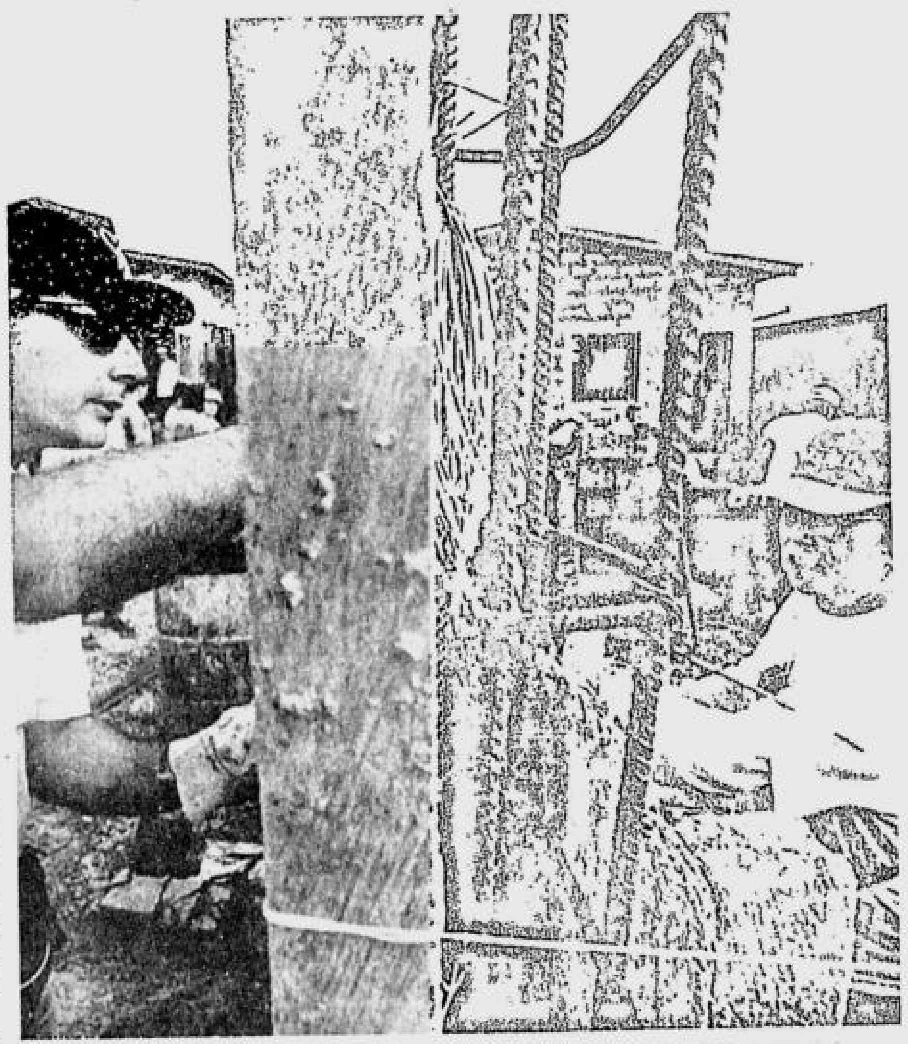
The INQUIRER partners with Linis-Ganda Inc. by promoting the benefits of waste segregation by buying, collecting and recycling old newspapers to help minimize the demand for wood pulp.

Saving 6,000 trees

The INQUIRER is the first newspaper to use organic soy-based ink and recycled paper. Its annual newspaper drive not only promotes solid waste management in the Philippines but also allows the INQUIRER to recycle old newspapers nine times into reusable newsprint or newspaper. To date, more than 400,000 kilos of old newspapers have been recycled—saving over 6,000 trees.

Aside from its active participation in the League of Corporate Foundations and Philippine Business for Social Progress, the INQUIRER has also actively supported the GMA Kapuso Foundation, ABS-CBN Bantay Kalikasan, Give Asia/Youth Aid, Metrobank Foundation Inc., National Youth Commission, Coalition Against Counterfeit Medicines and Coalition Against the Bird Flu Virus.

All of the social initiatives of these partner organizations define what social responsibility means to the INQUIRER.



BUILDING PARTNERS: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and PDI chair Marixi Prieto for Habitat for Humanity. PDI PHOTO

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No shake-up yet at Ayala with demise of matriarch

From page A1

properly addressed many years ago and all changes deemed appropriate for the stability and strength of Ayala have been put in place," he said.

McMicking and her late husband, Col. Joseph McMicking, a former chief intelligence officer of Gen. Douglas MacArthur who transformed the Zobel de Ayala hacienda into today's modern Makati, had no children.

Equal inheritance

According to Ayala insiders, a few years before her death, McMicking had bequeathed her fortune equally to the nine children of her nephews Jaime Zobel de Ayala (seven children, including Jaime Augusto and Fernando) and the late Enrique Zobel (Inigo and Mercedes).

The same sources said that this setup would ensure that Mermac and Ayala Corp. would continue to be run by the father-and-sons team of Jaime, Jaime Augusto and Fernando.

But company officials have yet to confirm the details of the inheritance.

McMicking's passing has triggered widespread speculation that Ayala Corp. has become ripe for a boardroom shake-up and vulnerable to corporate raiders.

Diversified conglomerate

The P115-billion company is a diversified conglomerate with interests in banking (Bank of the Philippine Islands), real estate (Ayala Land), telecommunication (Globe Telecoms) and utilities (Manila Water).

For roughly half a century, the matriarch had controlled the destiny of the company as she dictated who should manage the family fortunes.

Favorite nephew

In 1968, she picked favorite nephew, Enrique, to run the family business.

In 1983, however, Enrique is said to have angered McMicking when he sold the family's substantial holdings in San Miguel Corp., the country's biggest company, to Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, a crony of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Jaime took the driver's seat of Ayala Corp. in 1983, passing on the torch to his two sons in 1995.

A top official of a major investment bank said the transfer of ownership from one strong hand to many hands has made Ayala Corp.'s ownership structure much looser, opening up the possibility of a tectonic change.

The official said some of the heirs might decide to cash out or join hands with a cash-rich partner to engineer a takeover of the company.

Key figure

Iñigo, Enrique's son, is seen as a key figure in the unfolding drama at the House of Ayala based on reports that he was keen to take the reins of the company once run by his controversial father.

Some quarters claim that McMicking had split her fortune in two equal parts, one chunk to the children of Jaime and the other to the children of Enrique. If so, this would make Iñigo and his sister the single biggest shareholders of the company.

Further fueling the takeover speculation is Inigo's close ties with Cojuangco who took the Zobel scion into the San Miguel board.

Cojuangco used to be known as "Pacman" for his allegedly insatiable drive to take control of big corporations during the martial law era, a practice which he seems to have continued with his return to San Miguel in 1998.

Henry Sy factor

Sitting beside Iñigo and Cojuangco in San Miguel's boardroom is ethnic Chinese billionaire Henry Sy, another business tycoon who is said to have a strong interest in taking over Ayala Corp.

A source said Sy, who holds about 6-percent interest in Ayala Corp., attempted to buy his way into getting a seat on the conglomerate's board in the 1990s, but was foiled by the Zobel de Ayala group.

The group tried to thwart Sy by reducing the number of board seats from nine to five but this was rejected by the Philippine Stock Exchange which issued an order imposing a minimum of seven board seats for all listed companies.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Top Croatian war crimes fugitive nabbed

BELGRADE—A TOP FUGITIVE from the UN war crimes tribunal, former Croatian general Ante Gotovina, was captured by authorities while dining at a luxury hotel in Spain's Canary Islands, judicial officials said Thursday.

The detention of the 50-year-old whose case had since 2001 been the last major obstacle in Croatia's bid to join the European Union was immediately welcomed by Brussels and Nato, whose foreign ministers including US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spontaneously applauded the announcement.

"I have very good news, since Ante Gotovina was arrested last night in Spain," Carla Del Ponte, the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), said on a visit to Belgrade.

Gotovina was one of three top suspects wanted by The Hague-based court along with Radovan Karadzic, the political leader of Serbs during Bosnia's 1992-1995 war, and his military chief, Ratko Mladic.

GOTOVINA AP

The former Croatian general was due to appear at a court in Madrid later Thursday and preparations for his transfer to the UN court had already begun, officials said.

The arrest "lasted a few seconds and took place without any incident," said a statement from Spain's interior ministry, adding Gotovina was in possession of a fake Croatian passport in the name of Kirstian Horouat.

A former soldier in the French foreign legion, Gotovina had been on the run since mid-2001 when The Hague announced his indictment for war crimes committed against ethnic Serbs at the end of the 1991-1995 Serbo-Croatian conflict.

His case caused a seven-month delay to the start of Croatia's EU entry talks because Brussels had been dissatisfied with Zagreb's assistance in the bid to locate the ex-general, who is still considered a hero by many in his homeland.

The talks finally began in October after a surprise declaration by Del Ponte that she was satisfied Croatia had "fully cooperated" with The Hague in efforts to find Gotovina and dismantle his support network.

On Thursday, Croatian Prime Minister Ivo Sanader said Gotovina's arrest was "the final confirmation of the credibility of Croatia and its state institutions."

"Those who believed us when we were saying that Gotovina was not in Croatia today received the final and complete confirmation," Sanader added. *AFP*

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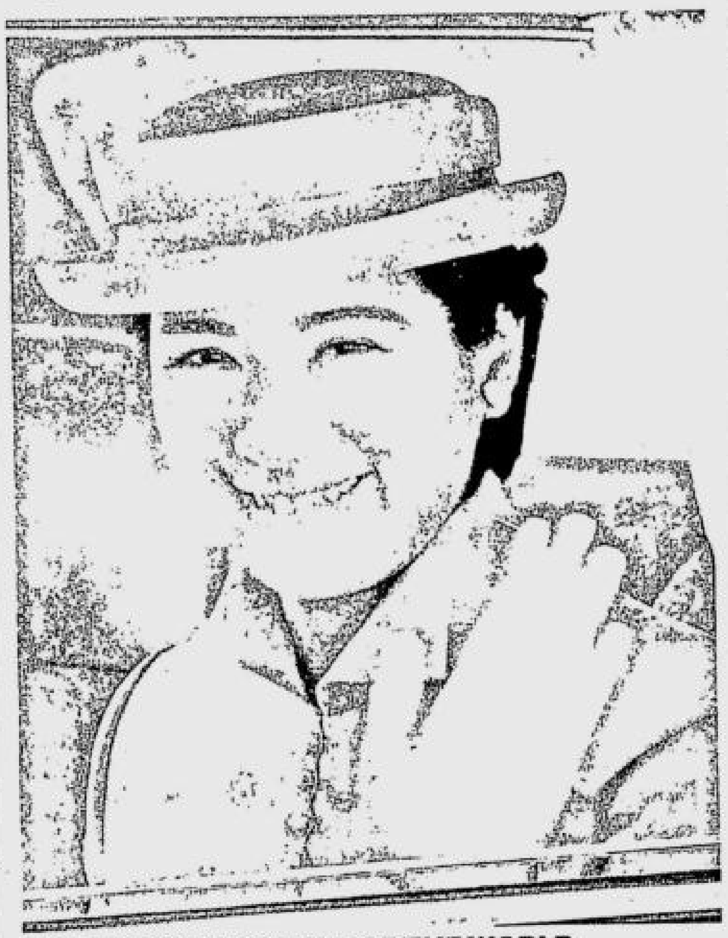

NOT EXACTLY ON TOP OF THE WORLD
Japan's Crown Princess Masako waves from her car as she arrives at the Imperial Palace as she celebrates her 42nd birthday Dec.r 9. Masako expressed hopes she could gradually resume her official duties after being mostly out of public view for the past two years due to a stress-related illness. REUTERS

Iraq insurgent group claims it killed US hostage

BAGHDAD—AN ISLAMIC INSURGENT GROUP said on Thursday it had killed a US hostage who, if the claim is confirmed, would be the first foreign captive killed in Iraq for four months and the first American in more than a year.

The reported killing came after a suicide bomber killed 30 people in an attack on a crowded bus in central Baghdad, the latest chapter in Iraq's bloody insurgency just a week before Iraqis vote in parliamentary elections.

A statement posted on a website often used by insurgents said the Islamic Army in Iraq killed the security consultant, identified as Ronald Schulz, because the US government had not met its demands, which included freeing all Iraqi prisoners.

"War criminal (US President George W.) Bush continues with his arrogance and no one has any value unless they serve his criminal interests, therefore the American security adviser pig at the Housing Ministry has been killed," the statement said.

The statement's authenticity could not be verified and no pictures or video accompanied it.

White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said: "I don't have any confirmation or any additional information to provide on that matter."

The US Embassy in Baghdad said it had no official confirmation of the report. *Reuters*

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'Dirty' donations

BEIJING — THOUSANDS of pounds of medical equipment donated to China will be returned to the United States because it includes stained bedding, used surgical clothes, and expired medical equipment, local media reported Friday.

The Beijing News reported on its website that three containers of donations sent to charitable organizations in Beijing and the northern provinces of Anhui and Hebei were found to be of "questionable quality" and would be sent back.

Customs inspectors in Beijing found medical pipes that expired in 1998, dirty, mildewed sheets and used surgical gowns in one of the shipments, it said. Similarly shoddy goods were also found in the shipments sent to Anhui and Hebei, it said. *AP*

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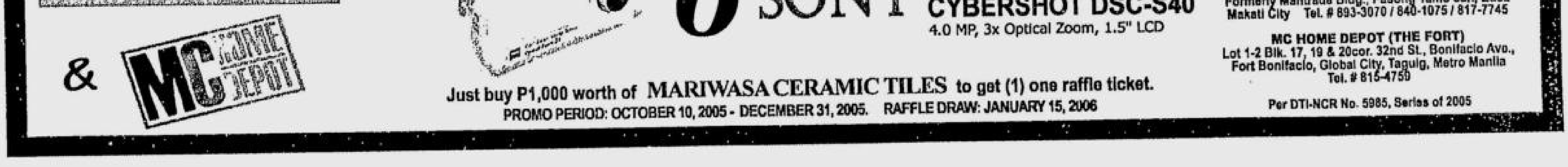

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Jetliner slides off runway at Chicago airport

CHICAGO—A BOEING 737 TRYING to land in heavy snow at a Chicago airport slid off a runway and crashed through a boundary fence, onto a busy street where it hit one car and pinning another beneath it. A 6-year-old boy in one of the vehicles was killed.

Two of the 103 people on the airliner suffered minor injuries in the accident at about 7:15 p.m Thursday night at Midway International Airport, and eight people in the two cars were hurt, authorities said. Five people were in one car, four in the other.

The 6-year-old boy was dead on arrival at a nearby hospital, spokesperson Deborah Song said. Two adults and two other children were at the hospital, their conditions ranging from serious to good, she said.

Passenger Mike Abate, 35, said after the landing he saw a father carrying an injured child and other people being taken away in an ambulance.

"That was the toughest part. We were safe on the plane, but the toughest part was to realize that someone was under the belly of the plane," Abate said.

Ninety-eight passengers and five crew members were on board Southwest Airlines Flight 1248 from Baltimore, Maryland, on the US east coast to the Midwestern city of Chicago.

The Federal Aviation Administration said the plane slid off the runway at the northwest corner of the airport, through the boundary fence and into the road.

The airplane's nose was crushed and a severely damaged engine was on the ground, Chicago Fire Department spokesperson Larry Langford said.

Midway, Chicago's second-largest airport behind O'Hare International, shut down after the accident and planned to reopen at 6 a.m. CST Friday, authorities said.

A statement from Southwest Airlines early Friday said the airline planned to resume operations at Midway at that time. Midway serves more than 17 million travelers a year, many of them on Southwest.

Passenger Larry Vazzano, 54, from the Baltimore area said the landing seemed normal at first.

"There was a bump. I saw snow rush over the wing, then there was a big bump," Vazzano said. "I braced myself on the seat in front of me."

He said some passengers used inflatable slides to get out of the plane in the blowing snow, while others got out on stairs at the rear of the plane.

The passengers were held for questioning by investigators and first responders for about three hours, Vazzano said.

At a news conference in Dallas, the airline's CEO Gary Kelly said the plane circled Midway for about half an hour because of the weather and traffic before it was cleared for landing.

"There are no indications that there are any maintenance problems with that aircraft whatsoever," Kelly said, adding that the plane had a service check in Phoenix on Wednesday.

National Transportation Safety Board and FAA officials from Washington were en route to Chicago to investigate.

James Burnett, a former NTSB chairman, said investigators likely would examine such factors as weather, instrumentation, engines and runway operations, in particular whether snow removal was adequate.

Midway reported 18 centimeters of snow Thursday, but Abrams said runway conditions at the time were acceptable.

The airport, Chicago's second-largest, is closely bordered by streets lined with homes and businesses. *AP*

Special Christmas present: Couple's kid may be alive a year after tsunami

BANGKOK, THAILAND—NEARLY A year after the tsunami separated them from their daughter, a German-Thai couple say they are certain their missing 5-year-old child will be back with them as a special Christmas present.

Sascha Meissmer and his Thai wife, Patchara, said Friday that a photograph of a girl seen on a website and in a Thai newspaper is that of their daughter Solitaire. A meeting is scheduled Tuesday with officials to resolve the case.

"We never gave up searching for her because several people saw her still alive one week after the tsunami," Patchara said in a telephone interview. "I hope and pray to get my daughter back as a Christmas present. We are a million percent sure that the girl in the picture is our daughter."

The photograph shows an Amerasian-looking girl with brown hair sitting in the administration office of Phuket province, which was struck by the killer waves Dec. 26.

Meissmer, 36, of Frankfurt, owned a bungalow and restaurant in the nearby province of Phang-nga, where the greatest number of lives were lost. He has been in Thailand for eight years.

The Meissmer family were in their beachside restaurant, with Patchara holding Solitaire in her arms, when the tsunami struck.

"I was swept into the sea for more than 100 meters but miraculously survived," Patchara said. She was hospitalized for one week while her husband began the search for their daughter.

UNDATED photo released on the website of Phuket Provincial Office, an Amerasian-looking girl, sitting left, is being cared for at a relief center in Phuket, Thailand, after the tsunami hit the island resort on Dec. 26, 2004. AP

Nearly 5,400 people died and another 2,817 are still listed as missing in Thailand from the massive waves which crashed into the country's southwest coast. Many of the victims in Thailand were foreigners vacationing at beach resorts on the Andaman Sea coast.

The couple said that someone in Germany had posted the photograph on a Phuket tsunami website—www.phuketremembers.com—where they first saw it last week. The photograph was reproduced in a Thai-language newspaper on Friday.

The couple is scheduled to meet with the Phuket governor, who they hope can resolve the case. Officials pictured in the photograph with the girl are believed to be employed at the provincial administration office which falls under the governor's control.

Meissmer said they had gone to Thai and German police as well as the Phuket-based Disaster Victim Identification Unit after the tsunami but nobody believed their daughter could still be alive.

"Nobody helped us. Even friends said they didn't believe our daughter had survived," he said. "But everything was possible that day. It was the craziest day of my life. I was standing about 100 meters away from the water and didn't even get wet."

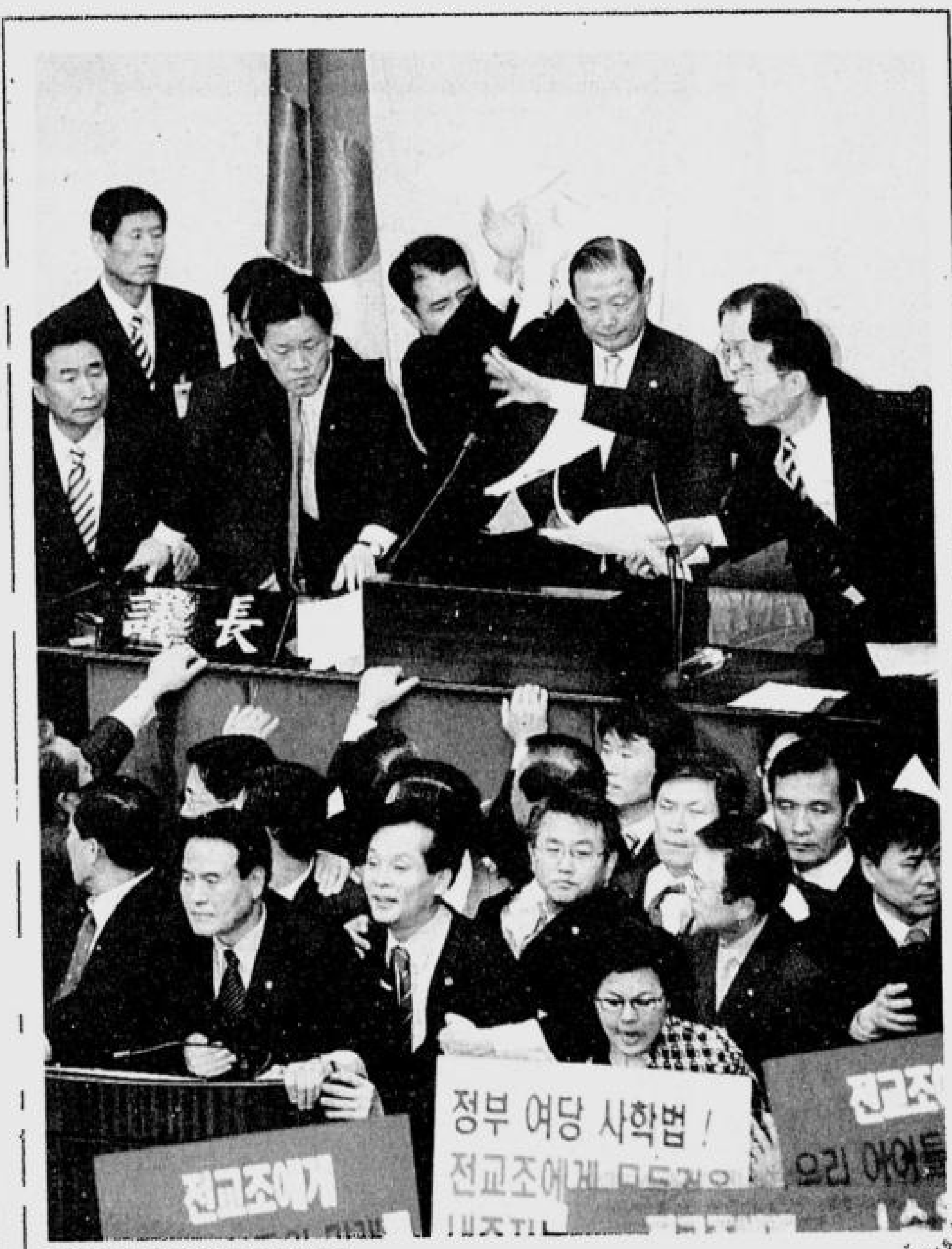
Not wishing to return to the scene of the tragedy, Meissmer said the couple opened a restaurant in Phuket.

In a related development, officials have retrieved the body of a woman believed to have died in the tsunami in Phang-nga.

"The remains were first found by a scrap dealer who said he dreamed of a dead woman pleading that he help in retrieving her body," Police Capt. Anan Klauboonkhaew said.

Sirichai Saisawat, who had been collecting items washed up by the tsunami, told police that he went to the area that had appeared in his dream and found the body under a fallen tree.

The body has been sent to a hospital for initial examination, Anan said. *AP*



PARLIAMENT FRACAS
South Korean lawmakers hurled paper and placards at one another on Dec. 9 when a fracas broke out on the floor of parliament as the ruling party pushed through a bill on private school reform. REUTERS

Clock starts to tick at UN climate talks

MONTREAL—UN TALKS ON climate change faced the pressure of time on Thursday as countries struggled for a deal that would win over the United States on how to move forward on reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

Environment ministers from around the world are setting down positions on the future shape of the Kyoto Protocol, the UN pact that seeks to reduce greenhouse gases that stoke global warming.

Sources said that, except for the United States, an informal consensus emerged on launching negotiations on pollution-cutting commitments after Kyoto's current pledging period runs out in 2012.

But there was no sign that Washington, which bitterly opposes Kyoto, had lifted its objections to such a move.

"The game isn't over, the negotiations will be extremely tough," French Environment Minister Nelly Olin told journalists, but added defiantly: "If the United States says no, that will not stop us moving forward."

And with less than 24 hours to go before the 12-day meeting was scheduled to wrap up, some delegates gloomily speculated the haggle would go into overtime.

"The United States aren't the only villains," said a Latin American source, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The Japanese are blocking things and Canada is dragging its feet" over pledges beyond 2012.

Scientists say that the post-2012 "son of Kyoto" must deliver swinging cuts in carbon emissions as compared to the present promises, otherwise the Earth may suffer catastrophic damage to its climate system. *AFP*

US officials defend fatal airport shooting

WASHINGTON—US OFFICIALS on Thursday defended the deadly shooting of a threatening air passenger as necessary to protect the flying public and the White House said an investigation will determine whether there were lessons to be learned from the incident.

The two federal air marshals involved in the shooting of an American Airlines passenger were put on paid leave while the incident at Miami International Airport was investigated, said air marshal spokesperson Dave Adams.

"In any law enforcement shooting, it's not just with the federal air marshals, they have to conduct an internal investigation," Adams said. "At this time the (marshals) are on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of this investigation."

The incident at the airport was the first time a passenger has been shot by air marshals since the enforcement program was beefed up after the Sept. 11, 2001, hijacked airline attacks.

"This incident demonstrates the critical role that air marshals play in aviation security today," said Homeland Security spokesperson Russ Knocke.

Officials said the passenger, identified as Rigoberto Alpizar, 44, indicated he was carrying a bomb in his bag as he boarded the plane for a flight to Orlando.

Witnesses said Alpizar appeared to be mentally ill. Law enforcement officials said later there was no sign of a bomb.

Alpizar's family issued a statement on Thursday calling him "loving, gentle and caring" and said he was born in Costa Rica and had become a naturalized US citizen several years ago. *Reuters*

N. Koreans sex slaves in China, says US official

BEIJING—THOUSANDS OF North Korean refugees are working as sex slaves in China under threat of being returned should Chinese authorities catch them, the US ambassador for fighting international slavery said on Friday.

After two days of talks with Chinese officials, John Miller, director of the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, said many victims of the modern-day slave trade were women and girls forced into prostitution or marriage.

"Sometimes they're trafficked out of North Korea. North Korean officials are complicit," Miller told reporters. "If they are caught by the Chinese authorities, they are sent back to North Korea and punished."

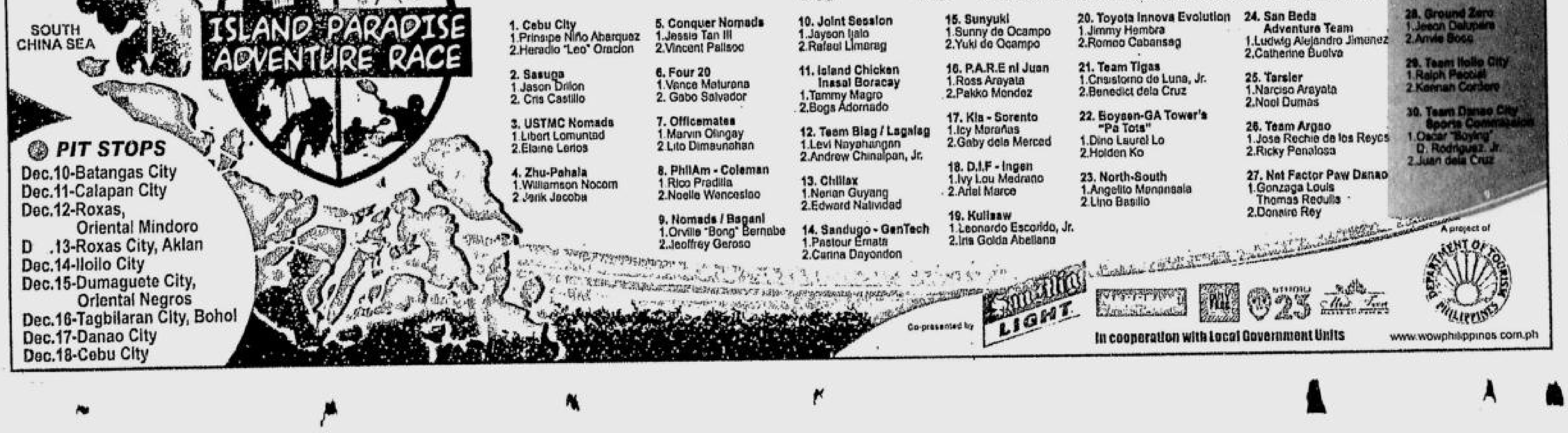
China views North Korean refugees on its territory as illegal economic migrants who should be sent back. But the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the United States and other countries have pressed China to treat at least some of them as legitimate refugees who should not be repatriated.

Miller said there were no accurate statistics of the number of North Korean women forced into prostitution or marriage in China.

But he said charities and church groups working in the region estimate between 30 percent and half of the many thousands of North Koreans who cross into China every year are "trafficking victims," forced or tricked into slavery.

Chinese press reports on the cross-border trade have said North Korean women are sold to Chinese brokers for several hundred to a thousand dollars each.

The repatriated women can face prison sentences of five years or longer, or even execution. But most often they are held for several months in forced labor camps, London-based organization Anti-Slavery International said in a recent report on the slave trade between North Korea and China. *Reuters*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ISLAND PARADISE ADVENTURE RACE
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STUDIO 23

Who will win P1 MILLION?

PIT STOPS
Dec.10-Batangas City
Dec.11-Calapan City
Dec.12-Roxas, Oriental Mindoro
D .13-Roxas City, Aklan
Dec.14-Iloilo City
Dec.15-Dumaguete City, Oriental Negros
Dec.16-Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Dec.17-Danao City
Dec.18-Cebu City

1. Cebu City
1.Prinsipe Niño Abarquez
2.Heradio "Leo" Oracion

2. Sasuga
1.Jason Drilon
2. Cris Castillo

3. USTMC Nomads
1.Libert Lomuntad
2.Elaine Lerios

4. Zhu-Pahala
1.Williamson Nocom
2.Jerik Jacoba

5. Conquer Nomads
1.Jessie Tan III
2.Vincent Palisoc

6. Four 20
1.Vance Maturana
2. Gabo Salvador

7. Officemates
1.Marvin Olingay
2.Lito Dimaunahan

8. PhilAm - Coleman
1.Rico Pradilla
2.Noelle Wenceslao

9. Nomads / Bagani
1.Orville "Bong" Bernabe
2.Jeoffrey Geroso

10. Joint Session
1.Jayson Ijalo
2.Rafael Limarag

11. Island Chicken Inasal Boracay
1.Tammy Magro
2.Bogs Adornado

12. Team Blag / Lagalag
1.Levi Nayahangan
2.Andrew Chinalpan, Jr.

13. Chillax
1.Nerian Guyang
2.Edward Natividad

14. Sandugo - GenTech
1.Pastour Ermata
2.Carina Dayondon

15. Sunyuki
1.Sunny de Ocampo
2.Yuki de Ocampo

16. P.A.R.E ni Juan
1.Ross Arayata
2.Pakko Mendez

17. Kia - Sorento
1.Icy Morañas
2.Gaby dela Merced

18. D.I.F - Ingen
1.Ivy Lou Medrano
2.Ariel Marce

19. Kulisaw
1.Leonardo Escorido, Jr.
2.Ina Golda Abellana

20. Toyota Innova Evolution
1.Jimmy Hembra
2.Romeo Cabansag

21. Team Tigas
1.Crisostomo de Luna, Jr.
2.Benedict dela Cruz

22. Boysen-GA Tower's "Pa Tots"
1.Dino Laurel Lo
2.Holden Ko

23. North-South
1.Angelito Monponsala
2.Lino Basilio

24. San Beda Adventure Team
1.Ludwig Alejandro Jimenez
2.Catherine Buelva

25. Tarsier
1.Narciso Arayata
2.Noel Dumas

26. Team Argao
1.Jose Rechie de los Reyes
2.Ricky Penalosa

27. Net Factor Paw Danao
1.Gonzaga Louis Thomas Redulla
2.Donaire Rey

28. Ground Zero
1.Jeson Dalupere
2.Arvie Boco

29. Team Iloilo City
1.Ralph Pecsiel
2.Kennan Cordero

30. Team Danao City Sports Commission
1.Oscar "Boying" D. Rodriguez, Jr.
2.Juan dela Cruz

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Muslims to guard Indonesia churches

JAKARTA—VOLUNTEERS from Indonesia's largest Muslim organization will help guard churches on Christmas Eve after warnings that militants may strike during the holiday season, the group said Friday.

Indonesia's intelligence agency warned on Wednesday that information indicated extremists may be planning attacks over the Christmas-New Year period in large cities across the sprawling archipelago, including Jakarta.

Members of Banser, a group of youths who wear military-style uniforms and are affiliated with the Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), will be posted to churches nationwide to guard against extremist attacks, NU deputy chair Masdar Masudi said.

"It's our tradition. It is our obligation to protect one another as members of the nation," Masudi told AFP.

He did not say how many volunteers would be deployed in the world's largest Muslim-populated nation but said Banser had about 4,000 members nationwide who could help. *AFP*

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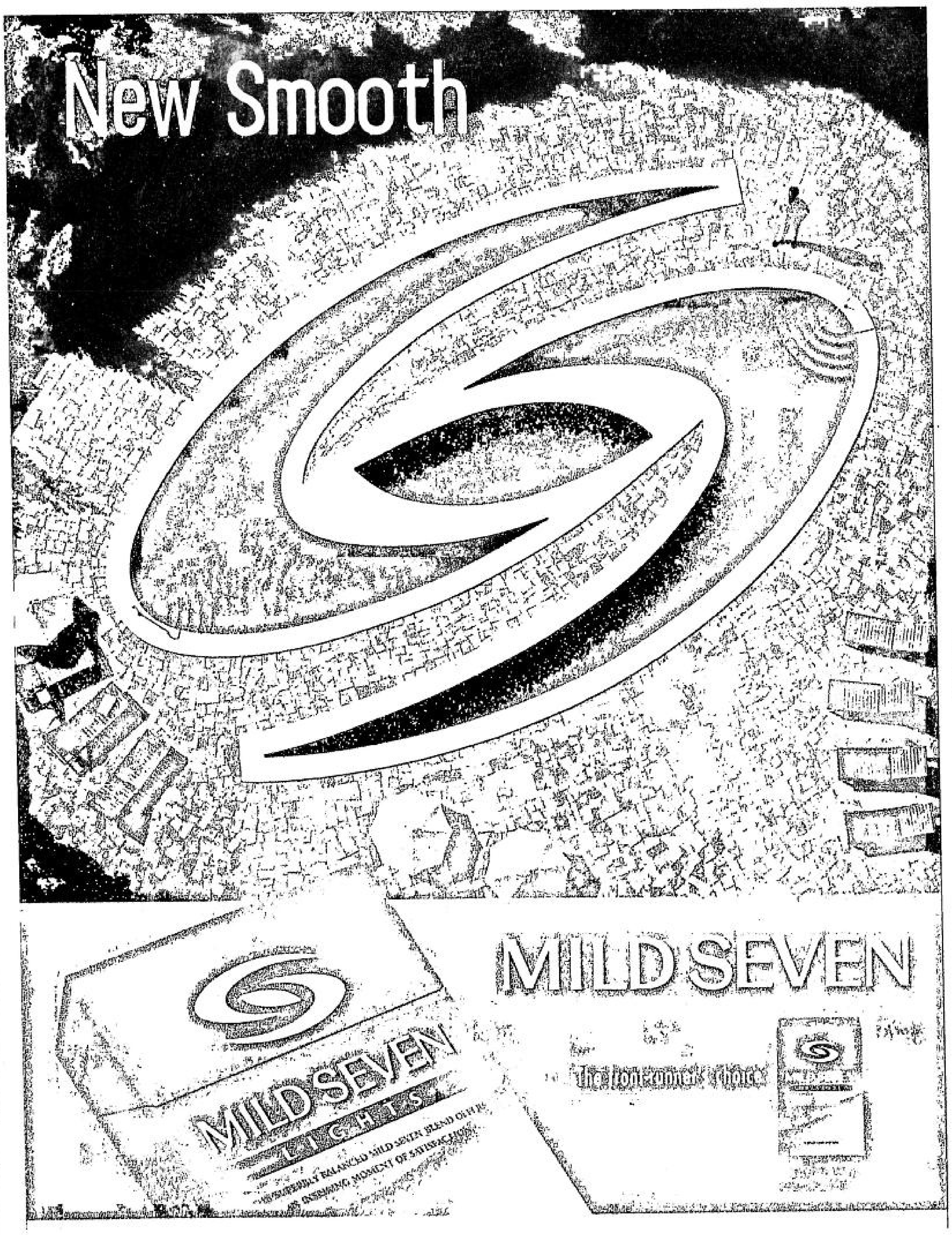

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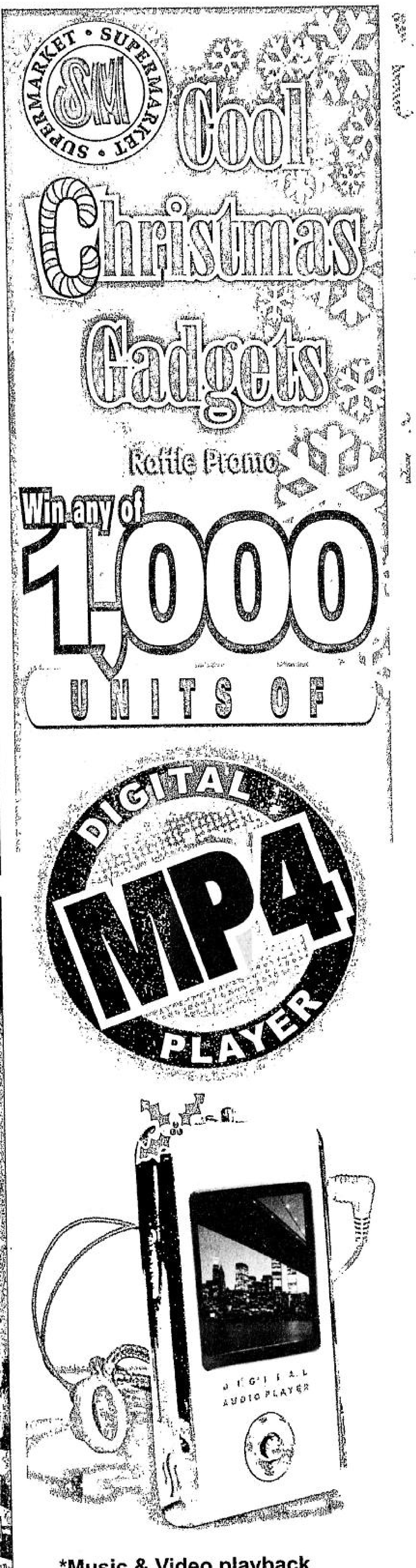

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Occasion for evasion

CAN ANYBODY STILL BELIEVE VIRGILIO GARCILlano? After five months in hiding, the former election commissioner emerged to face the House of Representatives and the nation last Wednesday, vowing "to prove to all that I have truly been a dedicated public official." But what had been billed as his "moment of truth" only turned out to be an occasion for evasion and half-truths.

EDITORIAL

Although Garcillano seemed pleased with himself, obviously believing he had put one over his tormentors in the opposition, there were few among his friends and supporters who were not impressed by his performance. Even his trusted ally, Rep. Prospero Pichay, was disappointed by his strategy of denying anything and everything that could be related to the very subject of the congressional investigation: the "Hello, Garci" tape. At the very least, Garcillano should have admitted that it was his voice that was caught on tape, Pichay said. But no, Garcillano chose to invoke the rule on sub judice every time he was asked about the tape. Asked pointblank if it was his voice on that controversial tape, he said, "I really can't say for sure if it was my voice." The inconsistency of seeking protection under the Anti-Wiretapping Law and claiming uncertainty about his recorded conversations apparently had not occurred to him.

The only admission Garcillano made that had any relevance to the subject of the inquiry was that he had talked to President Macapagal-Arroyo. But just once during the entire election period, he stressed, and not 15 times as the tape tends to show. And what did they talk about? Don't ask me, ask her, he told the committees conducting the investigation.

Besides, Garcillano said, it was not only Ms Arroyo who had called him or met with him. And he rattled off the names of 37 senators, congressmen and other political figures, most of them from the opposition. He did not mention the politicians whose voices matched those who were also caught on tape, saying their names had already been mentioned by the media.

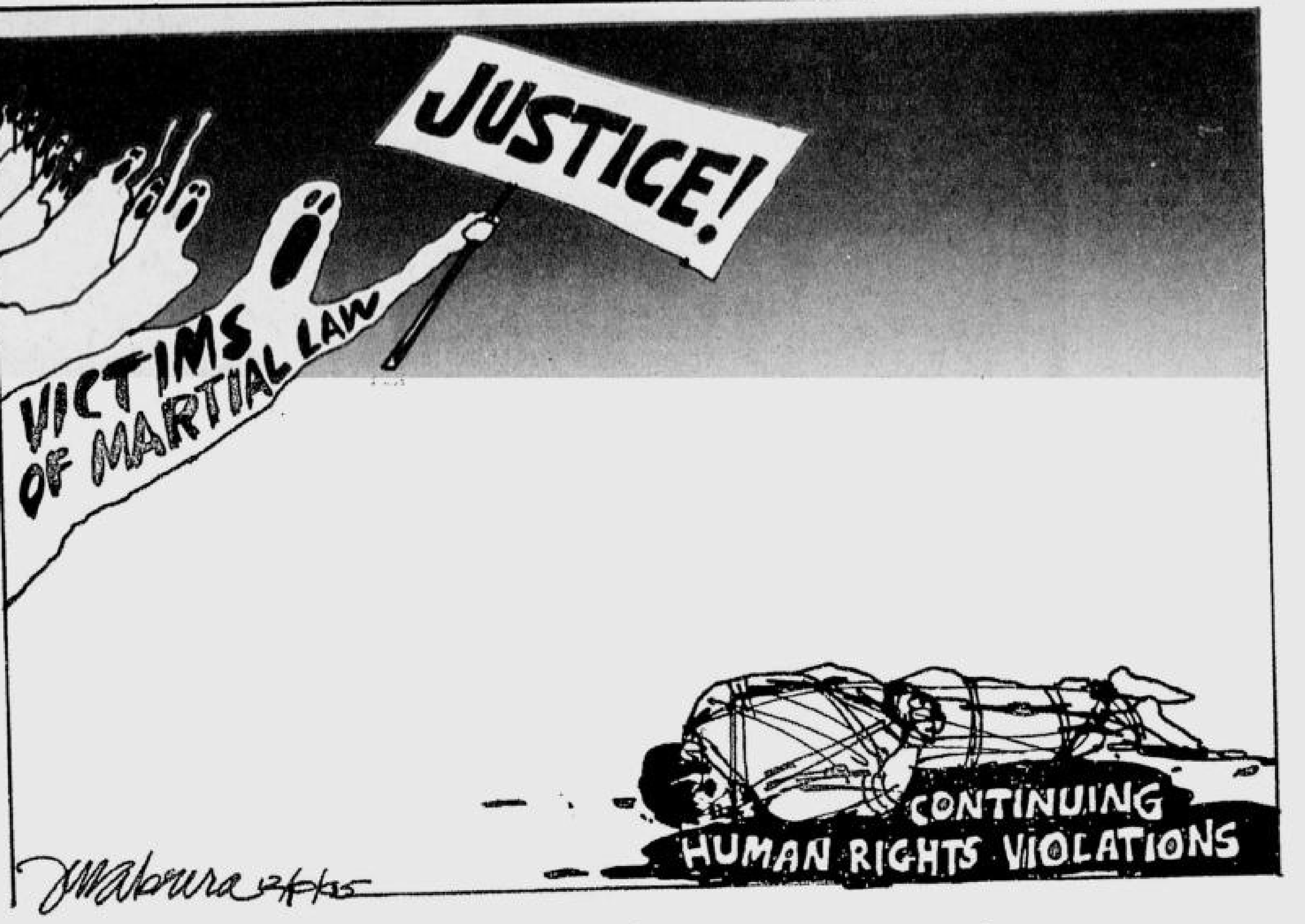
Earlier, Garcillano and his handlers had darkly hinted that he might implicate some prominent opposition leaders in some plots to manipulate the election results. He threatened to unmask them one by one. But at the committee hearing, he wouldn't say if they had asked him to do anything improper or illegal. Instead, he suggested that the question be thrown at them, prompting Rep. Teodoro Locsin to conclude that some of them dealt with matters that were improper. While trying to provide cover for himself and for his patrons, Garcillano must have pressed the wrong button so that instead of black ink what came out was an invisible one.

But as he evaded questions related to the tape and election fraud, Garcillano denied outright that he had left the country soon after the controversy over the tape broke out. He said he was just moving around the country, waiting for the appropriate time to come out and clear his name. And he stuck to that story even when confronted with an official statement from the government of Singapore that he had indeed been to that country in July and left a few days later. When asked to produce his passport, he said he had last seen it when it was issued more than three years ago, and he couldn't be sure he could find it.

After 10 hours on the witness stand, Garcillano didn't bring closure to the controversy that has sent the President's rating crashing down and divided the nation, as the administration had hoped. He didn't bring the nation closer to ascertaining the truth about the tape and the elections, as House members sought to do. And he did not redeem his name and his honor, as he wanted to do. All he achieved was to confirm to the nation that he is a man whose word cannot be trusted and a former election official whose actions were not exactly above suspicion. And this was the man the President named to help conduct clean and honest elections?

Garcillano did not only waste the time of the committee members conducting the investigation. He led them every which way except closer to the truth. Why don't they cite him for contempt and charge him with perjury?

So many witnesses and resource persons have gotten away with giving false testimony before Congress. It's time to remind people summoned to congressional hearings to take their oath seriously or such hearings will soon amount to nothing—like this one. Garcillano would make a good beginning.



The untouchables in our society

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A RECENT ISSUE OF TIME MAGAZINE contained three items in its Milestones section that may be of interest to some of us who tend to compare, often with helpless disgust, what is happening in some countries with what is not happening in ours.

The first report deals with the indictment of the heads of the intelligence agency in South Korea for illegal wiretapping during the administration of President Kim Dae Jung from 1998 to 2002. They are alleged to have spied on 1,800 prominent businessmen, politicians, journalists, and other persons listed in the so-called "x-files" scandal that resulted in the resignation of the South Korean ambassador to the United States who was linked to the illegal financing campaign for Kim. The former president has not been charged, but his reputation as a human rights advocate has been blemished by the delay in the prosecution of the two officials during his term.

During the presidential election campaign of 1998 in our country, our own intelligence agency was discovered with secret and costly equipment that was allegedly used to clandestinely listen to private conversations or photograph the activities of certain persons known or suspected to be opponents of the candidate the agency was supporting. Such stealthy operations were violative of the law against electronic eavesdropping and the right to privacy. The discovery created considerable alarm and indignation at the time, and there were loud demands for the prosecution of the responsible persons. Soon enough, however, the *ningas kugon* reaction died down, as usual, and the scandal was quietly swept under the rug and is now forgotten.

In the second case cited in the magazine, a well-known media baron, former head of a big newspaper group in Chicago and owner and controller of several reputable newspapers in Britain and Jerusalem, is facing eight charges of, among others, involvement in a $32-million fraud and stealing $51.8 million of corporate assets that he allegedly used for his extravagant lifestyle, including a $62,000-birthday party for his wife. As in the case of the South Korean spies, the accused also claims he is innocent despite the strong evidence against him.

No similar criminal charges have so far been filed against any of our media owners and executives although there are some newspapers that appear to be on the payroll of powerful political and business figures whose interests they dutifully protect. This has, of course, been unconvincingly denied. The profligacy of some of our so-called journalists is a well-known misconduct although this is not per se illegal. But it does disdain the Civil Code admonition against "thoughtless extravagance in expenses for pleasure or display during a period of acute public want or emergency."

The third pertinent item in the Time section should also provoke disappointment if not anger over inaction in our country over similar cases. The subject is a member of parliament in Israel and, more importantly, a son of the incumbent prime minister. Unlike most accused, he plea bargained against charges of perjury, falsifying corporate records, and illegal fund-raising activities during his father's election campaign in 1998. His nolo contendere will cost him his legislative position and also the usual penal sanctions. Interestingly, he has been indicted during his father's term, obviously with his sire's permission or perhaps even upon his instruction.

The nearest analogy to that case is the conviction of Romeo Jalosjos, who was found guilty of raping an 11-year-old girl at a time when he was a member of the House of Representatives. Jalosjos fought tooth and nail to prove his innocence but lost to his competent accusers and a revolted public opinion. Notably, his offense had nothing to do with official matters, unlike another former congressman, the extradited Mark Jimenez. This also well-heeled legislator has been convicted and imprisoned, but in the United States and not by our government. Among his various offenses was making illegal campaign contributions, practically a dead letter in our election laws.

And what about some of our controversial personages and their spouses and children as well who have yet to be prosecuted? I know that Gen. Carlos F. Garcia has been convicted by a court martial with a light sentence for his ill-gotten wealth. Let's see what will happen to the Sandiganbayan case against him for the heinous crime of plunder, which is punishable with death.

There are some public officials and their also untouchable relatives who have been flouting our laws with impunity without fear of dire consequences usually inflicted in stricter jurisdictions. Political power gives unrepentant culprits practical if not legal immunity in this land where wrong should be condemned for poet and peasant alike. This is one of the appalling injustices of Philippine society that should be corrected and punished without discrimination or preference.

Foot-dragging on election automation

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ARE SUPPOSEDLY conducted "in aid of legislation." But anyone who thinks that the ongoing circus in both House and Congress will end up with the passage of new laws, or the amendment of existing laws to prevent or minimize election cheating, is probably someone who still writes to Santa Claus. "In aid of legislation"? More like "in aid of media exposure," or "in aid of future name recall." Free publicity is the name of the game.

In the meantime, nobody is minding the store. Congressional leaders have admitted—with nary a blush of shame or embarrassment—that the 2006 budget could be passed on time. It should be remembered that the government budget is the embodiment of its fiscal policy, one of two major instruments the government can wield to achieve its macroeconomic and development goals. While the national development plan articulates the goals and priorities, it is the budget which gives them concrete expression, and is the true reflection of its goals and priorities. In other words, the government "puts its money where its mouth is" in the budget. Yet, come Jan. 1, the start of the new fiscal year, the government will have to operate on a "reenacted budget," i.e. the budget for 2005. This cavalier disregard of one of its most important responsibilities has become a hallmark of our legislature; it has been going on for the past five years.

Even worse, unimpeachable sources tell me that the 2006 budget, as presented by the Executive, has no allocation for election automation. And that this glaring oversight is not being corrected by Congress—no effort is being made to set aside funds for automation. Which means that come 2007, the manual electoral system, with its opportunities for retail and wholesale cheating, will still be in place. Thus, we have the supreme irony: Congress, "investigating" the cheating in the 2004 elections while ensuring, by omission, that the cheating can continue.

In a similar blame—others pattern, the Commission on Election points its finger at the Supreme Court as being responsible for the 2004 elections not being automated, because the latter prohibited the use of the machines the former bought for the purpose. I have heard some legislators adopt the Comelec line—that everything will be all right and tight if only the Supreme Court removes this prohibition. It is possible that the perception that there is nothing really wrong with those machines, and that the Supreme Court can be made to change its mind, is behind the decision not to set aside funds for automation.

Let us disabuse ourselves of that perception once and for all. I talked to Gus Lagman—the reader will remember him, together with other IT professionals, as having brought up the matter to the Supreme Court in the first place. The question I asked Gus was: is it at all possible that the flaws in those machines could be corrected so that they can be used for election automation? His answer: Possible, but not probable.

Why? Because, he said, the basic problem was these machines, bought by the Comelec at exorbitant prices, were not the stand-alone counting machines (as what were used in the ARMM elections—which could not be hacked into or in any way perverted) that were specified in the Automated Election Law. They were, he said, personal computers (PCs) with scanners and printers, that were to be interconnected to each other. What's wrong with that? For starters, this would require special software (which is not at all an issue if election counting machines had been used). But after eight months of software development, no software was still in place—which meant that the program was probably encountering huge, and even insurmountable problems. And secondly, the fact that they are interconnected and could communicate with each other means that they are vulnerable to intervention—and to high-tech *dagdag-bawas*.

What is the solution? It would seem self-evident. (1) Get the right counting machines—using a bidding process that will not be perverted; which means (2) get a budget allocation for it in the 2006 budget; (3) get Comelec Chair Ben Abalos out of there—or at least marginalize him, if that is possible—because he was responsible for the entire sorry mess in the first place; and because he will continually be trying to defend his purchases of those PCs (and the likelihood that corruption took place), even if it means subverting the whole automation program; and (4) get good Comelec commissioners to fill one existing vacancy, and two other vacancies that will arise in February of 2006.

But what about the machines already bought? Are they to waste away in Comelec *bodegas*? Not at all. The silver lining in this whole scandal is that, if the government loses its case against the supplier, those PCs, scanners and printers can be used by the Department of Education for the computer education of public school children, who would otherwise not have access to computers. That is, unless the machines have already been pilfered away.

The bottom line, folks, is that eight years after the Automated Election Law was passed (in Dec. 1997), it has not yet been implemented. The Comelec, Congress, and the Executive (Macapagal-Arroyo vowed in 2001 that one of her accomplishments would be bringing the Philippines into the modern election world by 2004) must not be allowed to continue foot-dragging on this issue.

Better business prospects

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PESO HAS HIT P53.67 TO THE DOLLAR, its highest level in almost two and a half years, and there are speculations that it could reach P50 in a few weeks. This could lead to improved ratings from the credit rating agencies that downgraded RP a year ago. In addition to the string of good news on the economic and financial front, many entrepreneurs feel that business prospects are better this year than last year, despite the resurrection of the Garci issue, and GMA's second-lowest negative acceptance rating. The good news on the economic front may explain why there's no public outrage. Add the fact that people still feel euphoric over the SEA Games and just want to have a merry Christmas.

* * *

The peso is the strongest currency in the region, boosted by robust remittances from overseas Filipino workers, massive inflow of portfolio investments, and strong exports. In our dzRH program last Sunday, Cecile Alvarez and I asked Sergio Ortiz Luis, Phil-Export president and PCCI chair, how foreign direct investments (FDIs), such as those for setting up factories, mining, call centers and others, relate to portfolio investments (also called "hot money" and sunk into real estate, stocks and debt papers). Ortiz-Luis replied that FDIs are preferable as they don't flee at the first sign of instability, unlike hot money. But he said that the strong influx of hot money indicates investment confidence.

* * *

The last of the novena Masses celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first eucharistic celebration at the UP Catholic Chapel in Diliman will be held at 6 p.m. tomorrow, with Bishop Mylo Vergara officiating. Incidentally, a reader sent an addendum to my recent item about the national artists who helped to build that chapel, namely, Napoleon Abueva, Leandro Locsin, Arturo Luz and Vicente Manansala. He said two eminent engineers helped to build it. They may not have been national artists but they were outstanding UP alumni, too. They were the late Dean Alfredo Juinio and master builder David Consunji, who designed and constructed the dome roof that was astounding in its time and is still no mean feat today.

* * *

I've talked here about 50th anniversaries. Not the least of these is that of the Ateneo High School's "Dulaang Sibol," which makes the organization among the oldest drama groups in the Philippines today. Its founder and director, the indefatigable Onofre Pagsanghan, now 78, asked for "a much-needed encouraging push" to celebrate this milestone for Dulaang Sibol: "50 years of a steady stream of stage productions from an all-boys high school, on a shoestring budget." Here's Pagsi's story:

An old theater program dated Feb. 25, 1955 heralded its inception as the Ateneo High School Dramatics Society. Soon it was drawing crowds with its steady stream of Shakespearean plays from "Macbeth" to "Hamlet," from Edmond Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac" to Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None."

In 1966, with its first production of Filipino plays, the group gave itself a new name—Dulaang Sibol—and with it came new ventures. First translations, then "transplantations." Thus, Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" emerged as "Doon Po sa Amin;" J. M. Barrie's "Dear Brutus" morphed as "Wala sa Ating Mga Bituin."

1967 spawned our Paligsahan Pandulaan. We dared our high schoolers to write and produce their own plays. The challenge spurred 16-year-old Paul Dumol to soar with his "Ang Puting Timamanukin" and "Ang Paglilitis ni Mang Serapio." Days after the first *paligsahan*, critics were hailing the winning plays as "a major breakthrough in the development of our national language."

If the young can write plays that can move critics to sit up and take notice, perhaps, they can write songs that a nation will sing. Thus was born our *Timpalak Awit* in 1975. Four years later, a first-year high school student wrote a song that would later be hailed as the best original Filipino composition of that year. The song was "Hindi Kita Malilimutan." The 14-year-old composer then is now the seasoned songwriter Fr. Manoling Francisco, S.J.

In 1976, after 20 years of staging our plays in converted classrooms and borrowed halls, in slum clearings and convent parlors, the Ateneo gifted us with a theater home, small and intimate, with 156 precious seats. We are grateful.

And this year, after an unbroken series of productions for 50 years, we celebrate our golden anniversary with ANI, a harvest of some six productions crowned by a Sibol-grown musical, "Adarna," one of the best-loved Filipino folktales.

Fifty years old and still, Dulaang Sibol is, in the words of Fr. Miguel Bernad, S.J., "a theater forever young." And in many aspects, the description is apt. Sibolistas are high school students, as young as 12 and no older than 18.

Still, Dulaang Sibol is high school-theater with a difference. The late National Artist Leonor Orosa Goquinco described it as "a high-school theater with a professional polish." Critic Bien Lumbera labels it "a seminal force in the development of Philippine playwriting."

Dulaang Sibol is theater of the young, for the young and the young at heart.

It is a seedbed for Philippine theater, sprouting sprigs green with promise. It evokes the star-ward thrust of the Alpha, more than the full flowering of the Omega.

It is a brave beginning that can sometimes startle and stun, as only the young can—with that exciting brew of idealism and naivete, served with a daring dash of passionate vulnerability and the fumbling exuberance of birdlings in their first flight.

* * *

Professor Pagsi invites everyone to celebrate with his boys in the last two performances of "Adarna" today and tomorrow at Dulaang Sibol, 6:30 p.m. He says the libretto and music of "Adarna" are the fruit of the team effort of Sibolistas, who also handcrafted much of the set and most of the costumes.

Women in Nora's films

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I WAS RECENTLY INVITED TO TALK BEFORE the Manila Women's Forum (known by its acronym MWF), a gathering of powerful and active women—most of them expatriates, though there are a few Filipino and "balikbayan" businesswomen among them—which meets once a month to discuss issues of interest to them.

While I talked about the history of the feminist movement in the Philippines, and issues at the center of the struggle for gender equality, the women of the MWF seemed to me to embody the principles the women's movement has stood for and continues to fight for.

One of the women I was most gratified to meet at the MWF gathering was Jennifer Wallum, whom I have known for years but had never met personally until then. We initially connected when she wrote me an impassioned letter about the plight of women married to expatriate executives, who suddenly find themselves in a legal limbo when their husbands decide to end their marriages. Through the years, we have kept up communications, with Jennifer keeping me updated on her involvements, especially with an organization that works with Aeta communities displaced by the Pinatubo eruption. The main fund-raising activity of the group is the sale of ceramics made out of Pinatubo ash and designed by noted ceramic artist Lanelle Abueva. True to form, Jennifer had samples on hand, turning the gathering at the Ayala Alabang home of Caroline Gibson, who also helps with the group, into an impromptu bazaar.

Another MWF member, Margaretha Gloor, is in the country because of her husband's work, but she has found meaning in life through her involvement with Circle of Friends Foundation Inc. (Coffi), which advocates on disability issues.

Regardless of whether they're in the country for their own professional advancement or to be with their expat or diplomat spouses, the women are constantly in search of other passions, from volunteer work with museums and foundations, to taking courses on art and other endeavors, to church work. They are indeed proof of the boundless energy of women, a bottomless resource of goodwill for our country!

* * *

HERE'S the final awardee's response during the Feminist Centennial Film Festival. Suzette Ranillo, an accomplished performer herself, read the response on behalf of Nora Aunor, who was cited for her achievements in acting.

As readers may well be aware, Aunor is in California where she is awaiting trial on drugs charges. There were questions raised initially whether the original "Superstar" was "deserving" of the recognition given her tangled personal affairs. But the Advisory Committee of the Festival—composed of former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani, Emily Abrera, Boots Anson Roa, Annie Serrano, Miyen Versoza, Nick Deocampo, Teresita Hermano and myself—agreed that the recognition was for an individual's professional achievements and contribution to the uplift of women's images in Philippine movies, and Aunor was certainly a fitting awardee.

* * *

"I WOULD like to express (Ms Nora Aunor's) deepest appreciation to the organizers of this Feminist Centennial celebration—namely, the Feminist Centennial Network, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women, and the Communication Foundation for Asia—for this recognition of (her) contribution to the advancement of the feminist movement in the country through her outstanding achievement as a performer in Philippine cinema.

"Sa pinilakang tabing, ginampanan po ni Nora Aunor ang iba't ibang karakter ng pangkaraniwang Filipina, na waring hinulma sa kanyang pisikal na katangian at kayumangging kulay ng balat.

"Si Nora Aunor si Elsa sa pelikulang 'Himala,' ang bisyonaryo sa Baryo Cupang na umamin sa publikong nananampalataya sa kanya na hindi totoong may himala.

"Si Nora Aunor si Rosario, ang guro sa nayon na umibig sa kaaway na Hapon sa "Tatlong Taong Walang Diyos."

"Si Nora Aunor si Bona, ang alalay na nagsaboy ng kumukulong tubig sa manhid na pinagsilbihan.

"Siya si Angela, na ipinaglaban ang pagkalinga sa anak sa correctional sa "Bulaklak sa City Jail."

"Si Babette, na nabuhay sa kaunting pagmahahal sa "Bakit Bughaw ang Langit."

"Si Milagros Cruz, ang nurse sa 'Merika na piniling bumalik sa sariling bayan.

"Si Andrea, ang amasonang nagpakasakit bilang ina alang-alang sa ipinaglalabang ideolohiya.

"Sina Magnolia dela Cruz, Pacita Macaspac, Flor Contemplacion, Karina Salvacion, at Judge Dorinda Cortez. Ilan lamang sila sa mga nanindigang babae na buong giting na binigyang-buhay ni Nora Aunor sa pelikula—mga karakter na hindi nagpakulong sa mga de-kahong imahe ng kababaihan.

"Ikinagagalak din po ni Ms Nora Aunor na napabilang sa Feminist Centennial Film Festival ang isa sa kanyang mga paboritong pelikula, ang 'Minsa'y Isang Gamu-gamo.' Unang ipinalabas sa Filipino Film Festival noong 1976, ang 'Minsa'y Isang Gamugamo' ay magtatatlumpung taon na, pero nananatili pa ring makabuluhan sa ating panahon at patuloy pa ring pinapahalagahan bilang pelikulang tunay na Filipino sa diwa at nilalaman.

"Ipinararating po ni Ms Nora Aunor ang pakikiisa sa pagdiriwang na ito ng centennial ng feminist movement. Ibinabalik po niya ang pagkilala sa lahat ng kababaihan, sa iba't ibang panahon, na nanguna sa pagsulong ng progresibong kamalayan ng kababaihan.

"Ang karangalan pong ito ay inaalay ni Ms Nora Aunor sa Panginoon, sa kanyang pamilya, sa lahat ng kababaihan, sa lahat ng mga kaibigan na patuloy na nagmamahal at sumusuporta sa mapagsubok na panahon sa kanyang buhay, lalo na sa kanyang nagmamahal na mga Noranian: ang Federation of Nora Aunor Followers, ang Grand Alliance for Nora Aunor Philippines, at International Circle of Online Noranians.

"Mabuhay po ang kababaihan! Mabuhay po tayong lahat!"

Intay Lagipen (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

FUNNY THING ABOUT ILOCOS IS HOW COMMENTARIES about the region generally focus on the harshness of its soil, the hardiness of its people, the violence of its politics—all of which may well be true, but few speak of the spectacular beauty of its landscape, of its haunting ancestral manses and of its golden beaches drenched in eternal sunlight. Sometimes so gorgeous is the region it takes your breath away and makes you wonder why international chains aren't making a beeline for its shores to put up resorts. No way does the beach in Bali remotely compare with the cerulean waters of Ilocandia's coves.

Dotting Candon's lovely shoreline are surprisingly new Makati village-style houses taking advantage of the view. Apparently these belong to Ilocano emigrants now retired and returning home to enjoy the fruits of their labor. In other areas, the ubiquitous *"bahay kubo"* has been replaced by concrete structures, thanks to the remittances of overseas Filipino workers.

In the quiet barangay of Caterman, a marine sanctuary has been set up to cultivate sea weed and the famous sea urchins (much in demand in Japanese restaurants) for export. I have to admit that it isn't one of my favorite *sushi* dishes, but eating *uni* fresh from the sea is an entirely different experience. The purity of its taste is indescribable, as if the essence of the sea is in your mouth.

Recently, however, I discovered that *uni* isn't the roe of sea urchins. It's actually the genitalia of these sea creatures (wonderful!!!), ovaries and testes scrapped out of the shell. Good thing I didn't know it when I was happily eating it. Mr. Elmor Leaño of the Bureau of Fisheries in Candon is understandably proud of the work and hopes that this will help protect Ilocos' fishing grounds and enable the fishermen to improve their livelihood.

When Mayor Allen Singson and the crew of Channel 4 went to the sea to film the nurseries of the sea urchins—all of them I'm sure ending up, no doubt, with fierce tans—I, with some members of the city council, kept to a shed to hide from the sun's burning rays.

Some fishermen were coming in with their catch for the day; since it was nearly lunch time, I bought a basket of *amampapaget* (a name that loosely translates as *mura at pangit na klase ng isda*). It was a fish that apparently *"hindi pinapansin"* before, just like the *galunggong*. But the fish now enriches our diets, given the hard times. Its scales are armor-like. The fish is broiled first, then its skin is peeled off, leaving the meat much like a fillet. Delicious with fish bagoong, tomatoes and lots of rice). To add to this, Mayor Allen bought tiny shrimps marinated in Ilocano vinegar (you can use gin or *calamansi* instead) that we ate as salad. Despite the vinegar, the shrimps tasted sweet.

Unlike other Filipinos, Ilocanos are very much aware of their heritage and rightly proud of it. According to Executive Director Rosalina Bistoyong of the National Commission on Indigenous People, Candon was named after the Kandong tree. Before the Spanish occupation, the village is said to have been ruled by three chieftains: Abay-a, Madalang (today's Madarang) and Kalinio (later Hispanized to Cariño). There are, by the way, 200,000 indigenous peoples in the area including the Tingians, the Kankanay and the Bagu.

On our second evening there, we were also treated to dance performances by children of these communities. Rep. Eric Singson has initiated a move in Congress, proposing the creation of an office for the northern cultural communities of Region 1 in order to ensure the preservation of the Ilocano culture and sub-cultures.

In the original 1892 expo, D. Placido Guirnaldo won a medal for his exhibit of an Aeta house, which was given a real-life touch by the presence of two Aetas, and a descriptive report of Aeta life and customs. D. Candido Abaya, on the other hand, showed his collection of strainers and baskets that must have come from one of the many ethnic communities. So even then, Candonians showed a marked appreciation of the art and culture of their different tribal groups.

When I first saw Candon in the 1970s, it was a sleepy town, but it has since developed into a commercial hub, with a university and a technical school for fisheries; AMA is setting up shop as well. There's a modern hospital and a very modern mall, an *"ukay-ukay"* store and a new supermarket, which somehow makes me nostalgic for the Candon of my first impression, the Candon which was very much what we know as *"probinsyas."* Time marches on and progress has its virtues.

Soon it was time to head back for Manila, with me looking like a *balikbayan* at the San Francisco Airport, tagging along a ton of *"balutans"* that included plants, peanuts, coffee, a bag of zapote fruits, a cluster of shallots, fine salt, an unfamiliar yam, Ilocano bagoong and a beautiful basket. Imagine my surprise when, just as I was leaving, I was handed another basket that contained two packages of bagnet, two packages of garlic-adobo cornet, several packages of *kalamay*, two plastic containers of *binudbudan* (glutinous rice marinated in rice wine), a whole basket of *katuray* flowers (we promptly added them to the mongo and to the salad we prepared the following day). And that unfamiliar yam I was telling you about, well, there was a basketful of them! So I was obviously right about the conspiracy against my losing weight, but I have to admit, I had a great time.

Selling out

YOUNG BLOOD

Anna Liza L. Su

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

EVERYTHING IN LIFE IS A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE—OR so I would like myself to believe. Thus when I accepted a job with a firm that is primarily engaged in corporate law shortly after graduation, I was surprised to be on the receiving end of jokes and comments that said I had sold out, although not in so many words.

Sold out to what? I asked myself. I had joined the ranks of the stalwarts of capitalism, joked a friend. Another asked what happened to me in law school? But the words that stung most were those of an elderly friend. He said St. Thomas Moore became what he was because he never entered into compromises. It's like sand in the hand, my old friend continued, once you make an opening even for just a little, everything else follows and disappears.

Of course, I never wanted to be a saint, but it was impossible not to be bothered by what they said. These were people whose opinions I valued very highly. I looked back to my periodic discussions with friends and classmates about life after law school. It was our majority opinion back then that service to the people can come in many forms, and yes, it can be done even in the practice of corporate law. Practicing corporate law helps people because you help corporations which in turn provide jobs to people. But to use the same argument at this time would seem to be nothing more than simple stretch-it-to-the-limit rationalization.

I could say that I used to be a social dreamer, a believer in the quest of Don Quixote. But it was impossible to stay that way in law school, or while simply growing up for that matter. You still dream, but not as often and as completely as before. The warning becomes a little bit more real each day: If you plan to build your life on dreams, it's prudent to remember that a man with moonlight in his hands has nothing there at all. And so the balancing act begins of keeping reality and dreams side by side. A middle-class kid cannot afford to live in castles in the air. You cannot feed others without feeding yourself first.

But I did not go to law school just to feed myself. First of all, I stayed here, didn't I? Several friends have already gone abroad to pursue the American dream or the Canadian dream. I stayed. Instead of going abroad to take advantage of the short-lived but lucrative tech bubble, I went to law school and slaved for four-and-a-half years to earn a license to practice law in this country. Does that not count for something? I could have gone abroad like others and tried to get a license to practice there. I did not. Instead I took the grueling 2005 bar exam and staked my future on its result.

And what's wrong with corporate law anyway? Did I just sell my soul to the devil? Is a life revolving around Starbucks latte and macchiato and fax machines and e-mails the epitome of greed and evil? In any case, I never said I would be here for the rest of my life. The least I could do is experience it firsthand before branding it as something, and then I would know what I don't want because I have been there.

I did not have this job just to feed myself either. It was a means to an end, a balancing act between dreams and reality. It is where I think I can best help myself and other people, at least for now. I think helping investors come in and decide where they would put their money contributes to national development. I think helping keep order in a chaotic commercial world, one corporation at a time, is as patriotic as directly providing legal services to the poor, although varying in degree.

And yes, the argument that helping banks and businesses in general creates jobs for people remains valid. A professor once said, "Despite raging battles going on outside the gate, someone has to man the store." It's the store that keeps the city afloat, isn't it?

I believe selling out means turning your back on everything you once believed in, because you let reality kill your dreams. Because you no longer see things that are larger than yourself. Because you no longer see that there are things that are absolutely worth living, fighting and dying for.

Those who left and pursued the American dream did not sell out because they wanted to give a better life for their families. Those who stayed but earned their keep skimming money from the public coffers did.

Those who went into corporate law, like the many others ahead of me, did not sell out because that is where they could make the most out of their talents or maybe that was where they were needed. Those who opted to work in government but cheat the public out of justice every single day do.

Those who preferred to work in the private sector, did not sell out by putting up businesses or working for multinational corporations. Those who make a living out of every single government contract and call themselves public officials do. They are the ones selling out this country, its people and themselves.

Being 25 does not make one a sage. But I believe there is wisdom in saying that for as long as you never lose that perspective, there is no danger that one will fall into the depths of irresponsible capitalism. There will always be the will and the vision to do what I have dreamed all of my life. Which is to enable the poor to live in castles.

Anna Liza L. Su, 25, is a 2005 graduate of the Ateneo Law School.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Indiscriminate

"People take a lot of time to learn their lessons from nature. Last year's flood was a big disaster. We ourselves don't log, but nature does not choose whom it hits."

—Arnel Revate, president of the Quezon province-based Banglos Sculptors, a group of fishermen who turned to sculpting after their homes were destroyed by floods

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Preposterous Garci

ACCORDING TO NEWS REPORTS, Virgilio Garcillano said he went into hiding because he was afraid of Sen. Panfilo Lacson or what the latter's men might do to him.

If for the sake of argument, Garci was truly concerned about his security, why didn't he turn for protection to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband who, with the entire police and military forces at their beck and call, could surely have protected him from harm, as they are doing now.

Moreover, if the conversations caught on the tapes are true, the threat to Garcillano's person wouldn't come from Lacson but from the supporters of Fernando Poe Jr., the man victimized by him. They have all the reasons in the world to want to harm him more than any other defeated candidate. Lacson, after all, had known all along that there was no way he could have beaten Poe, and this was a given factor, so why should Garci be afraid of him?

Therefore, Garcillano would be simply lying through his teeth should he assert that he went into hiding for fear of Lacson and his men. If I were to give Garcillano one advice, it is this: Keep an eye on all your flanks because, realistically, the threat to your life and person will not be coming from opposition ranks but from within your own camp.

What Garci and his wife Grace are feeding the media is so preposterous that only the stupid would believe them.

—ANNA DE BRUX,
anna-de-brux@chello.be

Let the forests of Samar be

THE MORE I THINK ABOUT the return of logging to the island of Samar, the more I recall about my childhood days in the land of the *Pintado* (tattooed) warriors.

Born in 1971, I grew up in Catarman, Northern Samar, during the martial law days. I lived the first 12 years of my life in Samar. Soldiers in full battle gear were a normal, everyday sight then.

I recall hearing then from elders about a logging concession in the middle (hinterlands) of the island. I found out later that the concession was granted to San Jose Timber Corp. which belonged to Juan Ponce Enrile, at that time the defense minister.

In our place in Samar, when we say "typhoon," we mean one that makes the storms in Luzon look like rain shower. (Samar is a reference point for weather disturbances approaching the country from the Pacific Ocean.)

My mother's family came from the small town of Pambujan which is about 40 kilometers east of Catarman. With only rough roads connecting the two towns back then, it would take our family several hours to visit my maternal grandfather on weekends. After typhoons, traveling to Pambujan would take a longer time. I wish I had a camera then; I would have had a photo now to show what we had to go through after a typhoon.

But as a boy, I found the trips to be an adventure. All the bridges were wooden. When strong winds and heavy rains came, most—if not all—of the bridges to Pambujan would either be washed away or badly damaged by flash flood or fallen trees. We would walk on uneven bridges or cross rivers on bamboo rafts.

I realized that the flash floods and fallen trees were not brought about just by the typhoons. But being young, I didn't really understand. Everything was an adventure. I didn't know that many families lost their homes, or lost a loved one or their livelihood.

It would be very sad if we let such tragedies happen again. We should learn from the past. Let the forests of Samar be. Do not cut the trees down. Samar has so much potential. It has been taken for granted and neglected for so long. Now again, its forests are going to be abused.

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EVAT's 'great success' OFW's double whammy

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO IS putting forward a ridiculous posture of elation over the "great success" of her EVAT amendment, claiming credit for the appreciation of the peso vis-à-vis the US dollar and the rollback in the cost of petroleum products. She must think the Filipino people are a tribe of feeble intelligence. Perhaps, she is right, seeing that she is still entrenched in Malacañang in spite of the fact that 80 percent of this inured society doubt the legitimacy of her position.

Every OFW family, which has received for the Yuletide more dollars than normally remitted off-Christmas season by their loved ones abroad, may understand the appreciation of the peso if they have the slightest clue on the law of supply and demand. They also go to the market and realize their peso now would buy less. They are the lot most adversely affected by GMA's vaunted VAT success because they now get less pesos for the dollars they receive and their pesos buy less goods than they used to. A double whammy for GMA's modern-day heroes!

The international lenders, seeing she is able to extract more from taxpayers, would be better inclined to lend GMA money to run the government and buy political support for her tottering administration. Big business welcome these developments that will offer, for the present, prospects for abundant profit that future generations will pay for. Grafters in GMA's stable will enjoy an extended holiday.

The masses pine for the trickle of benefits of GMA's "surging" economic growth which may never come in the lifetime of this generation.

—EP DAKANAY JR., 43 Baltazar St.,
Philamlife Vill., Pamplona, Las Piñas City

'The Davide Standard'

IN HER NOV. 15 COLUMN, Belinda Olivares-Cunanan commented: "Davide is both a renowned jurist and a capable chief executive." The comment strikes me as an eloquent recognition of the man.

May I say something about Chief Justice Hilario Davide. I had an opportunity to talk with him in his office in the Supreme Court some years back when I retired. The conversation was casual, and I found him to be straightforward and humble. He even narrated to me his experience during his college days when he lost his P20 transportation fare in going to Manila at the Cebu port. Fortunately for him, he met a classmate from UP, a son of the congressman from Misamis Oriental, who paid his boat fare.

Associate Justice Artemio V. Panganiban in his book, "Leadership By Example, the Davide Standard" has these good words about the Chief Justice:

"It is easy to get along with him because he is humble, soft spoken, almost self-deprecating but at the same time self-actualized... He has no cravings for money or for the luxuries that money can buy, because he has been blessed with the abundance of the things that money cannot buy, like integrity, wisdom, humility, patriotism and a keen sense of righteousness."

Davide will be retiring on Dec. 20, 2005. But under the "Davide Watch," he will leave a legacy worth reflecting. The example he has set is the best guidepost for our politicians who have an insatiable craving for money and power.

Davide may not be popular among the "spoiled brats" in the Supreme Court because he is *kuripot*. But he handles public funds especially the Judiciary Development Funds (JDF) with utmost care.

In the appointment of our next chief justice of the Supreme Court, the Davide Standard should be our primordial consideration. Our Supreme Court is an epitome of justice and objectivity. The next chief justice will be very critical to a nation crippled by political bickering. In our time, we cannot afford to weaken an institution considered as the last vanguard of democracy.

—ERASTO D. SALCEDO,
former executive judge,
RTC, Tagum City

Lame-duck president overtaken by time

THE LIFTING OF THE LOGGING MORAtorium in Samar island to pave the way for the resumption of the operation of the San Jose Timber Corp. (SJTC), which is reportedly owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, shows the Arroyo administration's preferential treatment for the few elite.

The Samar Integrated Natural Park is a 300,000-ha expanse of natural forest, the habitat of more than 900 species of flora, 197 species of birds and 39 species of mammals. Indigenous peoples (IPs) also live in the park and depend on it for their livelihood.

If we remember in 1989, flashfloods killed 79 people and submerged 33 towns in Samar, prompting then President Aquino to declare a total log ban on the island.

The denudation of forests in Samar, or in the Caraga region in Mindanao, or in Quezon province in Luzon did not just happen. It came about as a result of choices made by the government, choices that allowed a small group of people to "control" the forests. Deforestation affects people. It may have enriched and built mansions for the concessionaires who are members of the elite class but, on the other hand, it has driven thousands of Filipinos, particularly, those belonging to ethnic groups, away from the forests. This is equivalent to evicting people from their homes.

There is more than meets the eye in the lifting of the moratorium. It smells like a political accommodation in the mold of traditional politics, in exchange for somebody's support for the embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo and for the confirmation of her environment secretary by the Commission on Appointments.

GMA can disparage survey results as much as she wants, but if 8 out of 10 Filipinos want her out, she cannot but be a lame-duck President. This is why her administration readily enters into quid pro quo deals with her "supporters." If she thinks she can be an efficient and effective chief executive even as she struggles to survive, then Ms Arroyo is not aware that her time has run out.

—ROY A. CALFOFORO,
Secretary General,
Pandayan para sa Sosyalistang Pilipinas (PANDAYAN), Room 203, CCS Building, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Saturday, December 10, 2005

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Art Is-Kool	KNN	Anime Ring Kaisho		PBA					Mr. Fighting		Blind Item		Wow Maling Mali					
ABS-CBN 2	ETK				Nginiig		Little Big Star		My Juan And Only		Quizon Avenue	Magandang Gabi Bayan		TV Patrol World	Pinoy Big Brother	Sabado Movie Greats			
AXN		The Patriot					AXN Shakedown		E Buzz	Gamemax	Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	Amazing Race Family Edition		Las Vegas		House		Ripley's Believe It or Not	
Cartoon Network		Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Tom & Jerry Show		Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teen Titans	Samurai Jack	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends		Dexter's Laboratory	Crush Gear Nitro	The Gransazers	Superman	Sealab 2021 (11:15PM)	Aqua Teen Hunger Force
Cinema One	Bahay Ni Lola				Kailangan Kita				My Movie				Alyas Pogi 2				TBA		
Cinemax	Everything That Rises			Two Weeks Notice			Mistrial (5:45PM)				Snakehead Terror			It Could Happen To You			Premonition (10:40PM)		
CNN	World Business This Week	World News	People In The News	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	International Correspondents	World News	Spark	World News	The Daily Show John Stewart Global Edition	World News	World Sport	World News	Talk Asia	World News	Diplomatic License
Discovery Channel		Human Discovery		Extreme Machines		Blueprint For Disaster		Hour China		Wild Discovery				Guilty Or Innocent		Reel Race II		Extreme Discovery	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Totally Spies	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN			Table Tennis '05 Kalenspin	Pool Snooker World Pool League '05 Poland		Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Nfl's Greatest Moments	Atlantic Coast Conf. Basketball Penn. Vs Duke	Sportscenter Asia			NBA Game Nets @ Cavaliers				
ETC		Saturday Night Live		For Love Or Money		Joan Of Arcadia		The O.C.		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Last Comic Standing		Saturday Night Live		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
EWTN	Miracles Of The Child Jesus	Angelus (3:15PM)	Image Of God	Adventures In Odyssey	Knights Of St. Michael	Rosary With Mother Angelica	The Church And The Poor: Building Bridges	Catholic Compass		The World Over Encore		Fr. John Corapi		Daily Mass (SAP) Live		Angelus (10:15PM)	Sacraments Through The Ages	Life on The Rock Encore	
Fox News		Hannity & Colmes		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Special Report With Brit Hume		Fox & Friends Saturday						Bulls & Bears	Cavuto On Business
GMA 7	Startalk			Wish Ko Lang		Wag Kukurap	Pinoy Pop Superstar		Bitoy's Funniest Videos/Kapuso Mo, Jessica Soho		Imbestigador		Hokus Pocus			Showbiz Stripped			
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Colditz				Colditz		Dynasty: Behind The Sex, Greed And Manipulation				To The Ends Of The Earth			Frederick Forsyth's Icon (10:35PM)				
HBO				Finding John Christmas			Comfort And Joy			Assassins (8:55 PM)				Thunderbirds			Rome Ep 04: Stealing From Saturn		Once Upon A Time In Mexico
JackTV		Worst Case Scenario		Cheat	Filter	Samurai Jack	X-Men	Justice League Unlimited	The Batman	WWE Bottomline		Wwe Raw				South Park	The Man Show	Chappelle's Show	Beat The Geeks
Lifestyle Network	Living Space	Extreme Christmas		Radical Sabbatical	Road & Track	Genuine Article	Food Fight	Date Plate	Emeril Live		Iron Chef America		How Do I Look		NY Fashion Week	101 Most Awesome Moments		Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Hanging Out	MTV Hits	Wade Robson Project	MTV Presents				Homecoming	Punk'D	Wild N' Out	MTV Cribs	MTV Livewire		Chart Attack		Brand New	Massive	Jams	Rockola
MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	MYX Presents		Take 5		Top Of The Pops	Star MYX	MYXILOG	Pop MYX	MYX Live!		Pinoy MYX Countdown				MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX
National Geographic		Big Bite Nite				Saving The Jackass Penguin		Creature Feature		Wow!		The Astounding World		Dragons Of The Galapagos		Big Bite Nite			
NBN												GSIS Member's Hour		Sea Games					
Nickelodeon	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar: The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	My Life As A Teenage Robot	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Four Eyes	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			Ikaw Lamang Wala Ng Iba				Sana Bumalik Ang Langit Sa Lupa				Sa Kabila Ng Lahat				Jack & Jill				Lastikman Unang Banat
Qtv		3R		Candies		Fam Jam		Fans Kita		Ayiii Robot		Day-Off		Sabado Showdown				MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9		Open Line	Pagcor Sports Idol	Biyaheng Langit	Kids TV	Barangay Bida		Isumbong mo kay Tulfo		Medical Investigation		CSI: Miami		Plato's Run				Money Talk	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shopping		Friends Again		Shepherds Voice		EZ Shop		JA1		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Music Video		Oras Ng Himala	
Solar Sports		FIVB World Champs Cup Men's E'ship USA vs. Bra				Denmark Open Women's Doubles SFWTA Int'l Open 2005 China				NBA Jam	GWS Ep.50-2005	NBA Game Pistons @ Warriors					NBA Inside Stuff		
Sports Plus				This Is The PGA Tour		BD Spring Break Cancun	BD Venus Model Search	World Poker Tour ep.3 Aruba				UFC Primer Meltdown	Ultimate Fighting Championship				Target World Chal. Presented by Countrywide D2		
Star Movies		The Fan (3:05 PM)				Down With Love			Finding Forrester (6:45 PM)					Robocop			The Girl Next Door (10:45PM)		
Star World		The Collector		Miami Vice		Wild Card		John Doe/ The Man Upstairs		Chronicle: News From The Edge		TNA Xplosion		Ghosthunters/Ms. World: E. John At Radio City Music Hall/Swadyvad Fashion Rocks For The Prince		Enterprise	Michael Jackson Number Ones	Kumars At 42/ Three Tenors Live In Beijing	Miss World
Studio 23								Sports TV	Mr Bean	Pinoy Big Brother		Gilmore Girls (7:50 PM)	Jack & Bobby (8:40 PM)		Studio 23 Present				

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Big brother to Iloilo's street kids

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
Iloilo City

UPON SEEING HIM, CHILDREN WORKING AND LIVING on the streets of Iloilo City would rush to tug his shirt, borrow his mobile phone and hug him. He is a big brother, an idol and someone who is always on the side of abandoned, runaway and abused children.

John Piermont Montilla, 28, heads Gabay, short for the "Kabataang Gabay sa Positibong Pamumuhay" (Peer Guides for Positive Living), a private group that addresses the needs of street children. Aside from counseling services, the group provides a halfway home and information on how to protect the street children from exploitation, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS.

It was not easy for Montilla and his colleagues in Gabay. Their work made them controversial and misunderstood by some groups and parents who feel that certain acts of street children should not be condoned. This, despite the fact that Gabay's program has been recognized in the Philippines and all over the world.

In 2003, Gabay won the national search for Ten Accomplished Youth Organizations in the Philippines given by the National Youth Commission. It was cited for its "aggressive and revolutionary work in organizing prostituted boys and girls in the streets and in depressed communities."

The following year, Montilla received the YouthActionNet Award sponsored by the International Youth Foundation (IYF) and Nokia. The award recognizes outstanding youth leadership and is given to 20 young people every year.

Montilla received $500 and the chance to be trained on how to run a project and meet global donors and funding sources of youth projects in September in London.

He and the other 19 youth leaders will compete for the $4,000 fund given for the best youth project to be announced on Christmas Day. He dreams about it, like a child will for a Santa gift.

Unresolved family issues

With the awards came relative fame, something that Montilla has not come to terms with.

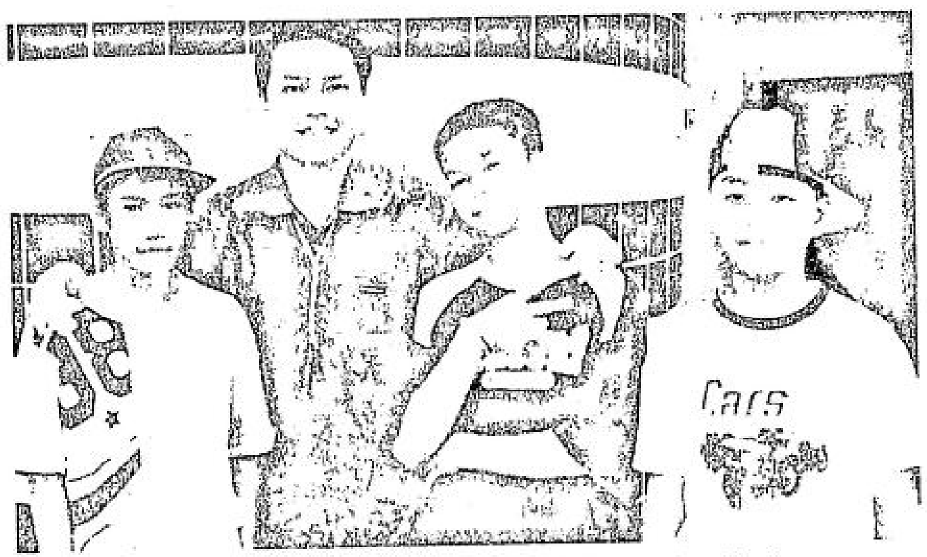
One TV network offered to stage his life in a weekly drama on real-life stories. His will be about the scion of a prominent Negros clan who became a street child but later become a multi-awarded youth leader.

Montilla said no because he does not want to further strain his relationship with his parents in Negros Occidental. He does not want to put them in bad light.

"When I have fully healed myself, I want to see them again, maybe not to return but forgive them. As yet I don't have peace of mind because I haven't reconciled with them," he said.

Montilla said he left home when he was 14 after a fight with his parents over matters he refused to talk about. He roamed the streets of Bacolod City with a group of other children. Sometimes, he went home to his aunt's place near the city. He slept in the public plaza and church, and survived by begging, joining gang fights, picking pockets, snatching, sniffing solvents, and prostituting himself.

When he was 16, his aunt enrolled him in a one-year basic maritime course. After graduation, he worked for Negros Navigation Co., but not after he pleaded with the doctor to certify him healthy despite having tuberculosis. He assured the doctor that he would buy anti-TB drugs with his first paycheck.



JOHN Piermont Montilla with some of the street children assisted by the "Kabataang Gabay sa Positibong Pamumuhay," a private group that addresses the needs of children living and working on the streets in Iloilo City. ARNOLD ALMACEN

Eight months after his stint with the shipping company, Montilla was drifting again and found himself in Iloilo City. He lived with a family in a slum community, and to escape the squalor and hard life, he was often on the streets.

Working student

While working in several fast-food outlets, he was inspired by the tenacity of co-workers who struggled to get a college education. He decided to pursue his dream of becoming a scientist by enrolling in biological sciences at the West Visayas State University.

Montilla earned his allowance by helping his teachers check test papers and working in the university hostel. When he received a training to become a "youth service provider"—another name for a peer counselor—with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, he was given money for his education. In return, he worked with students and street children, especially those engaged in commercial sex but do not know how to protect themselves from sexually transmitted infections.

Montilla became the president of the Iloilo City chapter of the Pag-asa Youth Association of the Philippines (PYAP) and led the implementation of the HIV/AIDS Youth Advocacy Package (Hayap), which visited urban poor communities to teach children and young adults how to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS.

As a spin-off of their advocacy work, Montilla and 17 other PYAP members organized Gabay in 1999. They focused on children who are victims, at risk or survivors of abuse, sexual exploitation and drug use.

Gabay also touched on other issues, such as hygiene, conflict management and environmental awareness.

Working with the city government's Task Force on Street Children, Gabay organized prostituted children in the city. They were given lectures on safe sex, a place to sleep for a night if they did not want to go home, food and school supplies, among others.

Gabay is different from other groups helping street children because it does not drive the children away from the streets back to their homes or other government and charitable institutions, Montilla said.

"The streets give the children a sense of identity; it is their habitat. We cannot address their problems by keeping them out of the streets. They have a right to be there and earn a living. It is our duty to make the streets safe for them," he said.

Children as partners

Unlike other groups that consider street children as a "target" group, Gabay considers them their partners and peers, giving them the respect they need and not treat them as recipients of charity.

Montilla said his work gave his life meaning and purpose. "I feel that I have been healing my own past."

Some 600 children live and work on the streets of Iloilo City, but only a hundred are being served by Gabay due to its limited funds and volunteers, Montilla said. At least half of those served are involved in prostitution, and many of them are minors.

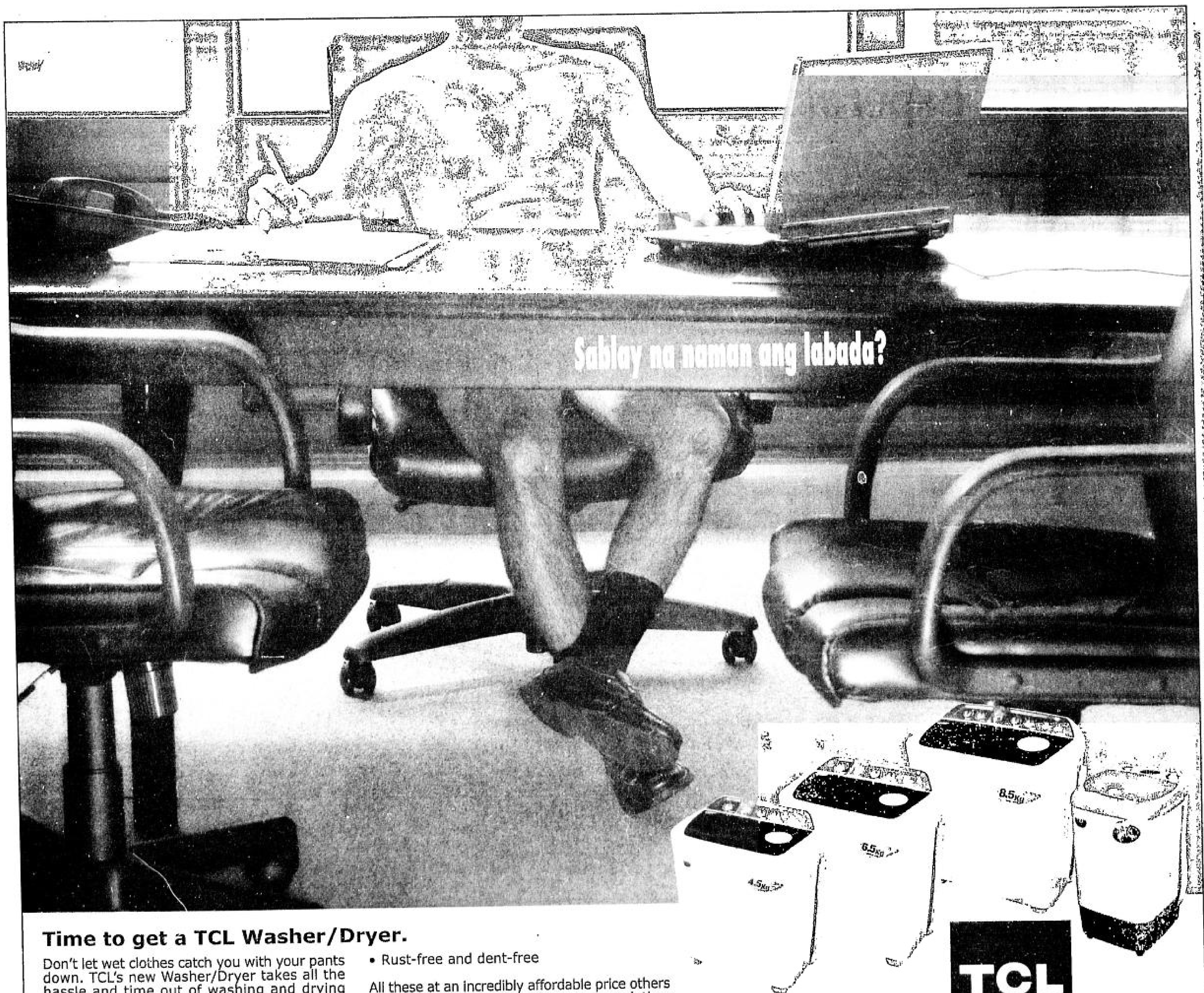
Virginia Advincula, Montilla's colleague in Gabay, said the group was conducting a study on sex work among the street children.

The children are invisible, their numbers are unknown, and there are no government or private organizations caring for their sexual health needs.

Aside from working with street children, Montilla and his colleagues are working on a project funded by the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) to train peer educators on HIV/AIDS in Iloilo City and Guimaras. The two areas are among the targets for HIV/AIDS prevention advocacy in the country.

Many young people know little about HIV/AIDS prevention, said Dr. Nicholas K. Alipul, Unicef representative to the Philippines in his message during the World Aids Day celebration in Iloilo City on Dec. 1.

According to a recent Unicef study, half of the 12 to 20-year-olds surveyed in Iloilo City and Guimaras believed that AIDS is curable, he said.



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Luisita farmers insist on having land

By Blanche S. Rivera

FRESH OUT OF A MULTIMILLION-PESO LABOR deal, farmworkers of the Hacienda Luisita yesterday said they were willing to give up their employee benefits in exchange for land.

Rene Galang, president of the United Luisita Workers Union, said the resolution of the labor issue did not signify the farmworkers' agreement to retain and improve the stock distribution option in the Cojuangco estate.

He rejected a call by the Hacienda Luisita Inc., manager of the 4,915-ha sugar land, for an amicable settlement on the agrarian reform issue as well.

"Our position will not change: the land must be distributed. That's non-negotiable. We're not open to talks on anything other than SDO revocation," Galang said in a press briefing in Quezon City yesterday.

HLI lawyer and spokesperson Vigor Mendoza II had expressed hopes that the two parties could discuss the retention and improvement of the SDO, saying the cancellation of the stock scheme would nullify the employer-employee relationship between the management and farmworkers.

Without this relationship, the benefits gained under the labor agreement could be for naught as the revocation of the SDO would in effect abolish the HLI, which should give the benefits, he said.

"It's really not an issue anymore. After 16 years of being under SDO, we are sure we want the land. There is not much we can do with the benefits of one or two man days a week, but if we have the land, we're sure we can feed ourselves," Galang said.

Galang is also president of the Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid ng Hacienda Luisita, who petitioned the Department of Agrarian Reform to revoke the SDO.

ULWU's 5,000 members are set to go back to work on Monday after securing P8.2 million (not P19 million as earlier reported) in back wages and bonuses, along with P200,000 for each of its chapter in the 10 barangays covering Luisita.

The ULWU has also been given the right to harvest some P30 million worth of sugarcane and receive the proceeds from the sales.

The Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union is set to receive a P21 million labor package for its 800 members on Dec. 15. The factory would open on Monday after 13 months of being non-operational due to the strike.

The ULWU, CATLU and the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, however, has one unmet demand, which they urged the Cojuangcos to support.

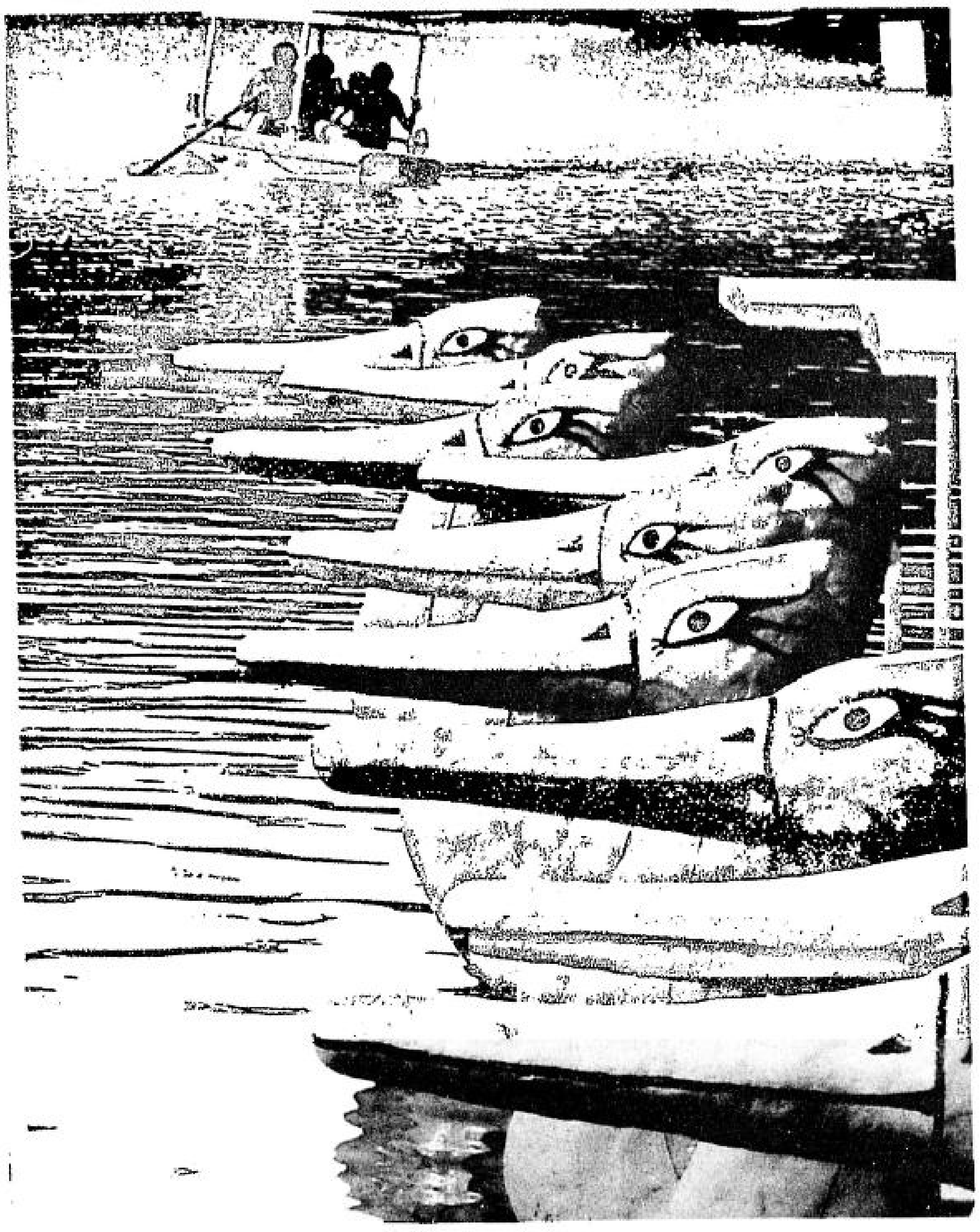
"Pull out the military from the hacienda," ULWU steward Angelito Bais urged.

Bais said there was no need for the military to be inside the hacienda because the strike has ended.

Members of the 7th Infantry Battalion, 48th IB and 703rd Brigade have been deployed to Luisita since March, building tent detachments or renting houses in the barangays, Bais said.

He said the military was harassing farmworkers and destroying the crops they plant in their own yards.

The military said there was no deployment of troops in Barangays Mapalacsiao and Balete, but armed men continue to roam the streets at night and have even rented houses in Barangay Balete.



FLOATING DUCKS

EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Baguio's tourism industry stays afloat and, according to officials, has turned around following the city's bout with meningococcemia. Operators of boats, like these decorated like ducks in Burnham Park, are waiting for their chance to reap the benefits.

Floods recede in Calapan; 2 die amid heavy rains

LUCENA CITY—RESIDENTS AND officials of flooded Calapan City expressed relief as floodwater in the central part of the city began to recede and the sun started to shine Friday morning.

However, the flash flood had a casualty.

Doy Leachon, Calapan City administrator, said the body of an unidentified male motorcycle rider was found in Kuwatro Aguas, Barangay Sta. Isabel, Calapan City.

"Apparently, the victim tried to cross the raging flood but was swept by strong currents and drowned," Leachon said in a phone interview.

Leachon said while 20 barangays remained submerged, the floodwater was fast receding especially in the central parts of the city.

"Our focus now is no longer rescue efforts but relief goods distribution to the affected villages," he said.

Leachon expressed gratitude to several rescue groups that have responded to their call for help, among them the Red Cross.

He expressed concern over the damaged portion of a dike in Bucayao River.

Leachon said the collapsed dike would need at least P50 million to repair. "Otherwise, the city will always be at the disastrous receiving end of every heavy rainfall," he said.

The rains claimed a life elsewhere.

In Puerto Princesa City, a 10-year-old boy was killed when a tree fell on their house due to heavy rains.

Marlon Lapuz, a Grade 3 student, died instantly when a mango tree fell on their house at around 4:30 a.m.

According to Barangay Bagong Silang captain Absalon Umpad, mango, ipil and coconut trees fell on the house, made of light materials, because of the strong wind and rains.

Lapuz's mother and his three younger siblings, including a 4-month-old baby, was unhurt. Their father, a fisherman, was not around.

In Barangay Tiniguiban in Puerto Princesa, some residents complained of flooding in their communities, but the floods were considered normal occurrences during heavy rains.

In the city's main district, some tourists were stranded in their hotel rooms since traveling to some tourist destinations like island-hopping would be difficult. The City Tourism Council said it hoped the weather would get better in the coming days.

December is usually a peak season in Palawan. *Delfin Mallari Jr. and Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

SC orders Esperat slay case moved to Cebu

ESPERAT

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—The Supreme Court has granted the petition seeking the transfer of venue of the trial of the Marlene Esperat murder case from Tacurong City, Sultan Kudarat to Cebu City.

Lawyer Nena Santos said the Second Division of the Highest Tribunal came up with the resolution on Nov. 23 which was released only on Nov. 30.

Santos considered the Supreme Court's decision as a partial victory in their quest for justice for journalist Marlene Esperat, who was gunned down inside her residence in Tacurong on March 24.

Santos filed the petition at the Supreme Court in June citing serious threats to the lives of the complainants, witnesses and the four accused as the main reason.

She said all the records of the Esperat murder case, including the three suspects now detained at the General Santos City Jail, will be forwarded to the Cebu regional trial court.

It is not yet certain which among the regional trial courts in Cebu City would handle the Esperat murder case.

"The case has to be raffled yet. But we are very happy with the Supreme Court resolution. This is an initial victory on our part," Santos said.

Santos cited the Damalerio murder case which ended up with the family of the victim getting the justice they deserved.

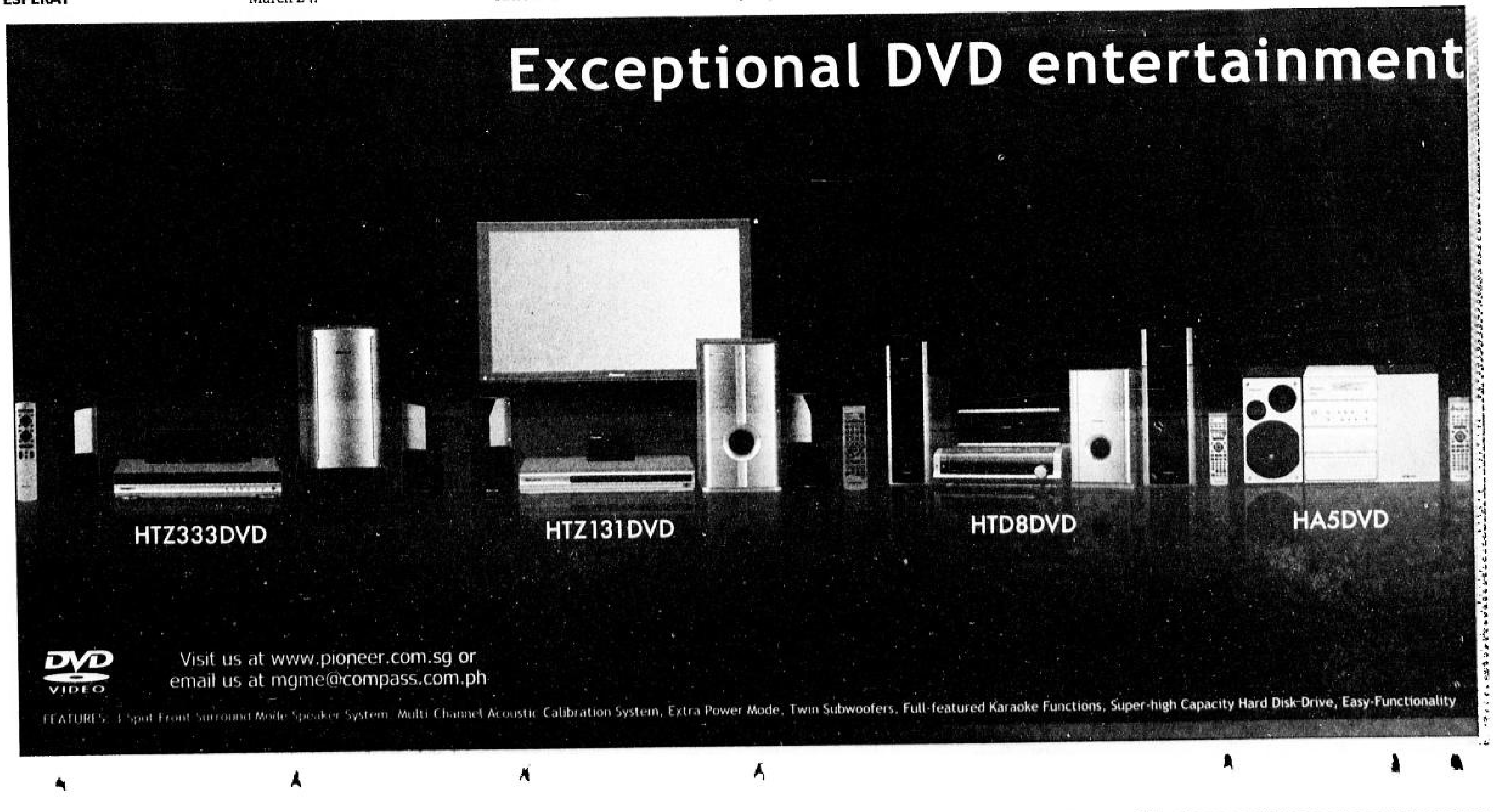
Last Nov. 29, Judge Ramon Codilla, of the Cebu City Regional Trial Court Branch 19, sentenced Guillermo Wapile, main suspect in the May. 13, 2002 killing of Pagadian City radioman Edgar Damalerio, to life imprisonment.

The Esperat family, Santos said, was not expecting a fair trial for the case unless the venue is transferred.

"It was a blessing in disguise especially so that the judge who is now handling the case is the same court official whom the victim (Esperat) criticized for gross ignorance of the law for junking her petition for bail last 2003," Santos said.

The lawyer recalled that in 2003, Esperat, who was then facing a libel case filed by a top agriculture official in the region, posted bail before the sala of then Municipal Circuit Trial Court Judge Melanio Guerrero.

Guerrero, who is now the presiding judge of Tacurong City Regional Trial Court Branch 20, did not allow Esperat to post bail citing lack of jurisdiction. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*



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Asean demands Burma release Aung San Suu Kyi

From page A1

ation of Southeast Asian Nations made clear their exasperation with member-nation Burma at an annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, said host Malaysia's Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar.

Burma has pledged to allow democracy, as demanded by its neighbors under strong pressure from the United States and other Western powers, which most Southeast Asian nations are loathe to alienate for fear of losing key trade benefits.

But the junta has failed, so far, to fulfill that pledge or meet demands to free pro-democracy leader Suu Kyi, and Asean members have become increasingly critical in public remarks, despite the bloc's traditional policy of noninterference in each other's internal affairs.

Suu Kyi has been under continuous detention for more than two years. Her house arrest was extended by six months last week.

The foreign ministers, meeting before their leaders' summit on Monday and Tuesday, discussed the "need for Myanmar to be more responsive to the wishes of the international community," Syed Hamid said.

He said there "should be some tangible movement" in the junta's self-proclaimed road map to democracy, which has achieved little in the last one year.

"Even though it is an internal affair of Myanmar, [the junta] itself must be able to show us movement in respect of the road map as well as on the position of Aung San Suu Kyi," he said.

Pressure from West

Otherwise, he said, Burma's position would become indefensible in Asean, which has faced pressure from the West for doing little to force change in that country.

Asean is willing to work with Burma but the junta "has also got to take steps that will ensure confidence and create credibility," Syed Hamid said.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Hasan Wirayuda said the ministers "were critical enough" of Burma during their discussions.

Burma in July agreed to relinquish its scheduled chairmanship of Asean for 2006, saying that it would focus its attention on its democratization process. The chairmanship will instead go to next-in-line Philippines.

US shadow

The junta reopened a constitutional convention on Monday to set guidelines for a new constitution as part of a process that it says will eventually lead to free elections. The process has been greeted with skepticism since the convention doesn't include Suu Kyi's party.

The military junta seized power in 1988. It called elections in 1990 when Suu Kyi's party won a landslide victory but the military refused to hand over power, saying the country first needed a new constitution.

Despite its exclusion, the United States will cast a long shadow at the inaugural East Asia summit in Kuala Lumpur.

Always a factor

As the preeminent Asia-Pacific power, the United States has a finger in almost every pie in the region—be it security, trade, investment, counterterrorism or even health.

So when leaders of Asean, along with China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand meet next week to discuss regional issues, they may find having excluded Washington awkward.

"The United States is always going to be a factor in any calculation made within the region necessarily, because of the continued importance of the United States to regional affairs," said Derek Mitchell, a key Pentagon strategist during the Clinton administration.

"The fact that the United States is not present will always have to be a factor in how (the East Asian summit) develops and whether it can be relevant," he said.

Worry over China

Eyebrows were raised when the United States was not consulted on or invited to the meeting.

Some felt that President George W. Bush, with his hands full with the war in Iraq and the "war on terror," might not have attended even if invited.

Initially, some members of the Asean, the meeting sponsor, had wanted the summit to be an all-East Asian affair.

But US allies in the region, in an apparent bid to neutralize Chinese dominance of the forum, campaigned and won admission of Australia, New Zealand and India.

"My impression is that US officials are relatively relaxed about this summit because they are comfortable with the fact that it is not exclusively a meeting dominated by China," said Marvin Ott, a professor at the National Defense University in Washington.

The Americans have been concerned over China's rising military might and economic clout in Asia, where Washington is linked by defense alliances with Japan, South Korea, Australia, the Philippines and Thailand.

Wait and see

The United States is a top trading and investment partner, a key donor, and an important weapons supplier in the region.

Peter Brooks, a former US deputy assistant secretary of defense, said it was a "disappointment" that the United States was not included.

The United States is taking a watch-and-see attitude toward the forum.

"It will see how it develops and whether certain lines are crossed that affect American interests and, therefore, require that it be in the room to be part of it," Mitchell said. *AP, AFP*

Peso extends streak, hits 2-½-year high

From page A1

there's really a lot of capital worldwide and if we could only get a little, it really makes a lot of difference," he said.

Foreign funds have been investing more in local stocks and debt papers since November when the government started implementing an expanded value-added tax, a key fiscal reform.

Not in panic mode

"It seems like the financial markets are not in panic mode despite the 'Hello Garci' [issue]. I think the financial market has delinked itself from the political side because we have seen that there's political will on the part of the administration to push through with the E-VAT," Hilado said.

"The message it's sending is no matter what happens on the political side, the fiscal situation should improve because there will be more revenues for the government. It's a good sign that the markets have matured," he said.

Hilado noted that other countries also experience political problems from time to time but financial markets do not bog down because of these.

Political will

"Her [the President's] popularity is going down but the financial market is ignoring the political side because the market is looking at the numbers and sees there's political will to pull us out of the economic crisis," he said.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the peso continued to be supported by strong OFW remittances and export earnings amid a lack of significant corporate demand for dollars.

OFW remittances

OFW remittances are seasonally high in the run-up to Christmas, the most significant and longest holiday in this predominantly Christian country.

Profit-taking

Hilado said the breach of the critical 53.80 technical barrier last Thursday encouraged the selling of more dollars yesterday.

He said the next dollar support was at 53.50, which appeared to be holding.

"Like everything that's overdone, a fast [peso] appreciation attracts profit-taking at certain levels," he said.

Adelbert Legasto, head of BPI Asset Management which manages more than P250 billion in assets, said the peso would likely test the 53 level by yearend because of strong OFW remittances as well as prospects that the Philippines may get a credit rating upgrade early next year.

Negative outlook

Major credit-rating agencies Fitch, Moody's and Standard & Poor's placed the Philippines on a negative outlook last July when the Supreme Court suspended the implementation of the expanded VAT law and key economic managers led by then Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima quit the Cabinet.

"This (appreciation) means that those holding pesos may feel better that their pesos can buy more dollars. One impact of this is that interest rates can move lower because the central bank is under less pressure to raise interest rates to protect the peso," Legasto said.

But easing interest rates, while encouraging some demand for loans, may force some people to scout for higher-yielding investments.

Savers turn investors

"It means that your money savings will now earn less so that some of the savers could turn into investors. They have to graduate from a savings-oriented type to one with appetite for instruments with a much better return and higher risk like fixed income securities and stocks," he said.

Tax reform package

"This year our stock market is the third best performing stock market [in the world] so those who want to earn much more may want to invest in equities," he said.

Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo said that while the peso's gains could be attributed to OFW remittances, investors were also responding positively to the President's recently passed tax reform package, including raising the value-added tax rate by two percentage points to 12 percent by next year.

"Further gains are expected with the implementation of the reformed value-added tax and the expected upgrade in outlook for the Philippines' credit ratings in the months ahead," Saludo said.

Strongest currency

With the government also borrowing less to cover its shortfall after successfully trimming its deficit, the "peso has become the strongest currency in Asia," he said.

The peso and the Indonesian rupiah were Asia's biggest gainers yesterday as foreign investment inflows into Indonesia's stock market and OFW remittances buoyed the two currencies.

"In both cases, you can attribute it to recognition by investors that policy makers have delivered market-friendly financial policies," said Tim Condon, ING's head of research in Singapore.

"They have been rewarded in an environment when there is abundant confidence. There is so much capital around that countries that take those sort of steps get rewarded," he said.

Record $10.3-B remittances

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas has forecast that remittances would hit a record $10.3 billion this year, up about 21 percent from $8.5 billion in 2004, which would be equivalent to 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Traders estimated the country was receiving about $20 million worth of remittances from overseas workers each day this month. Inflows normally surge in the run-up to Christmas.

At least eight million Filipinos, or 10 percent of the total population, reside and work abroad, three million of which are permanent residents.

The five million overseas workers make up 14 percent of the country's labor force. *With AFP and Reuters*

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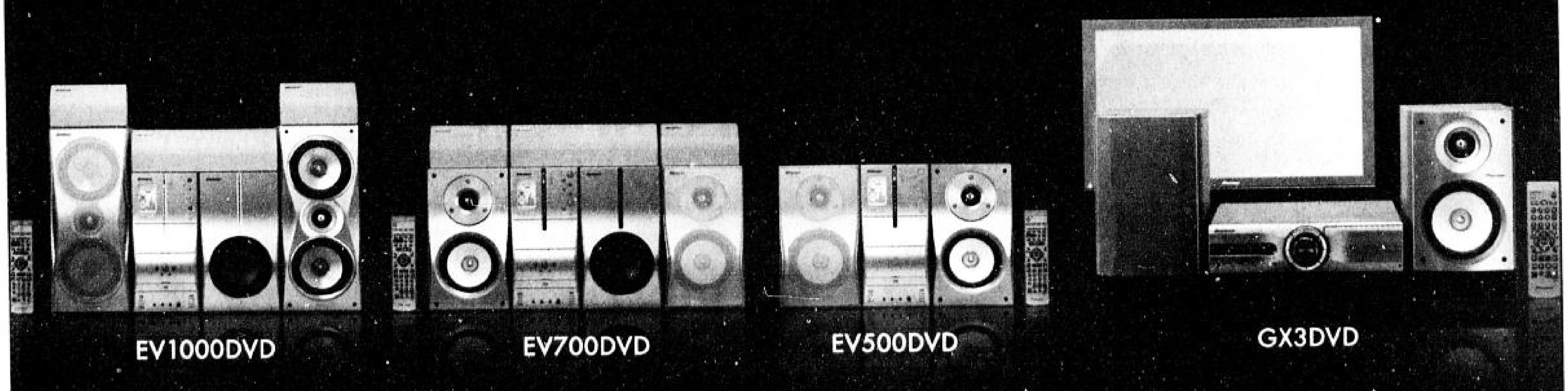

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Military on wiretap: Mum's the word

SILENCE IS THE TRUE FRIEND THAT NEVER betrays, says Confucius. The Armed Forces probably believes in that.

Military officials yesterday clammed up in the face of allegations by Marietta Santos, a girlfriend of T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, that the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines had wiretapped President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"The proper venue is the courts," Col. Tristan Kison said.

Told by reporters that Santos was not in a position to file charges against Isafp, Kison answered dismissively: "Again, the court will decide on that."

No comment, everywhere

Kison did not categorically dispute Santos' claims, but neither would he comment on them. He said Isafp chief Brig. Gen. Marlou Quevedo would also not give any comment. Neither would Quevedo's predecessor, Rear Admiral Tirso Danga, the Isafp chief when the alleged "Hello Garci" phone conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were allegedly wiretapped.

Danga is now AFP deputy chief of staff for intelligence (J-2).

No need to investigate

Kison insisted the AFP did not have to investigate Isafp based on Santos' revelations.

The other day AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga admitted the military never investigated Doble for wiretapping.

Senga said the investigation was being handled by the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Actually, the CIDG is investigating not the wiretapping issue but Doble's claim that he was kidnapped by former National Bureau of Investigation official Samuel Ong, who claimed to have the "mother" of all the so-called Garci tapes.

FVR to Garci: Tell the truth

By Nikko Dizon

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL Ramos called on former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to come out with the truth and said that whoever got hit should be prepared to meet his or her fate.

Ramos aired his call Thursday night at an airport press conference before he left for the United Kingdom to co-chair a meeting of the Emerging Markets Forum (EMF) in Oxford.

"I'm glad he appeared," Ramos said of Garcillano's decision to testify at a congressional inquiry into the "Hello Garci" tapes controversy. "He should tell it exactly how it happened because the greatest interest of our people is for the truth to come out."

"Whoever must suffer from the revelation of the truth, well, that's his or her destiny."

Ramos said that the hearings being conducted by the House of Representatives should "continue until the truth will come out."

RAMOS

More than just Garci

Asked if Garcillano's decision to emerge from months of hiding would bring closure to the current political crisis, Ramos said the resolution of the tapes scandal alone would not solve all the country's problems.

"The problems of the country are more than just the Garci tapes. Even if it's closed once and for all, the problems of the country will not end," Ramos said. "What we need is a total strategy that will result in the total upliftment of our country's political, economic, security and even cultural problem."

Duplicate Games triumph

Ramos said the country should duplicate in the political arena its success in the recently concluded Southeast Asian Games.

"Perhaps we should have a similar display of national pride, good leadership, synergistic teamwork and effective governance, which we have been able to apply to sports, and we could apply in politics," he said. "Maybe we could finally see the closure of the total problem as our people want to see."

Isafp told: Name brains

From page A1

tion of the Commander in Chief?"

Demands for the identity of the people or person who ordered the electronic eavesdropping of Ms Arroyo's phone conversations escalated after witness Marietta Santos testified at the Senate that a 14-man Isafp team, including her boyfriend T/Sgt. Vidal Doble, conducted the wiretaps on orders of an unnamed official.

In the bugged conversations, Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano allegedly discussed rigging the 2004 presidential election.

"After [six] months we have not found ... an authoritative answer from the Armed Forces," Arroyo said in a press briefing.

"What was the object? What was the nature? What was the purpose? So that we can put [Isafp] in order."

Arroyo said it would be easy for the Isafp to expose the brains behind the wiretapping of the President, which constituted a "serious breach" of national security.

"They can always direct because of the command structure of the Armed Forces. They could always inquire .... what happened and they should get a direct answer. But we haven't gotten that answer," Arroyo rued.

He said Santos' testimony only confirmed suspicions that Isafp was being used for political purposes.

"What that means is that Isafp is no longer used for the purpose it was created, which is to gather intelligence against national security. It is now being used for other purposes," he said.

Threat of budget cuts

And for using intelligence funds for unauthorized purposes, the intelligence agency could face cuts in its 2006 budget, the senator warned.

"The best thing is not to give them any budget. They're not using it for a good purpose," he said.

Arroyo lamented that the current hearings on the tapes scandal dwelt on so many issues at once and were proceeding without any clear resolution in sight.

"So many questions going in different directions, so many issues being heard at the same time," he said. "A hearing must be focused, concentrated on one issue ... But it's just going round and round. I don't think the investigating committee can make a good report because of the scattered issues, questions and answers."

Arroyo suggested that the investigating committees put a closure to one issue at a time, and submit a report each time to give the public an idea where the investigation was heading.

No outrage, at all

On his part, Drilon asked why the AFP had not conducted any formal investigation and how come neither Ms Arroyo nor General Senga had not shown outrage at the President having been wiretapped.

Drilon said Senga should be compelled to provide the answers when he faces the Commission on Appointments on Wednesday, adding his answers would determine whether he would be confirmed in his position or not.

"Clearly ... you cannot wiretap the President of the Republic and get away with it," Drilon said.

Credible witness

Drilon gave credence to the testimony of Santos.

"The witness was very spontaneous in her answers ... And my training as a lawyer and as a prosecutor and secretary of justice would indicate that she was telling the truth," Drilon said.

Drilon also said "more interest should be shown" by Ms Arroyo that her calls were tapped.

"The President and the chief of staff should be angry why she and Garcillano were wiretapped. They should get mad," Drilon said.

Breach of security

Citing Santos' narration that she could go in and out of sensitive Isafp rooms, Drilon said: "Not even senators can go around the Isafp compound. Why is it that a girlfriend of a technical sergeant is allowed to roam around the premises of the most sensitive building of the AFP compound?"

He expressed disappointment at Senga's reported statement that he was leaving the investigation to the police.

"If this is the attitude of the chief of staff on a very serious breach of security, what else could we expect from the military brass insofar as less serious matters are concerned?" Drilon said.

"I am certain his answers to these questions would influence the vote and the decision of many members of the CA (Commission on Appointments)," he added.

Test for Ombudsman

He said Senga could even be subjected to a bypass.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez urged Senga and Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to determine if military resources were misused during the 2004 elections.

He also called on Adm. Tirso Danga, the Isafp chief during the elections and current deputy chief of staff for intelligence, to go on leave or "seek another assignment to avoid suspicion that he could interfere in the investigation."

"The Ombudsman must also, motu propio, conduct an investigation. This will test the mettle of Ombudsman Gutierrez because the number one qualification of the Ombudsman is to fear no one," Golez said.

Proof of cover-up

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said Santos' claim that the Isafp was behind the wiretap confirmed what the opposition had long suspected.

"This just proves the administration's attempted cover-up of their own wrongdoing," he said.

Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, who led an initial House investigation into the tapes, said he hoped the Senate would have more success in getting the military to admit what happened.

He said that if it were confirmed that Isafp conducted the wiretapping, the implications would be big.

"This could be a basis for another impeachment complaint," Remulla said.

Silly season

Administration lawmakers dismissed Santos' testimony as full of loopholes and accused the opposition of using the hearings for propaganda.

"Instead of the Christmas season, we are again caught up in the silly season of black propaganda attacks. We are again being forced to return to the ghost of elections past," House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said,

Rep. Prospero Pichay of Surigao del Sur, vice chair of the House defense committee, said not even the President could use the Isafp for any political purpose.

"If Isafp did it (wiretap), the people involved are liable under the Anti-Wiretapping Law," Pichay said.

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said Ms Arroyo couldn't order a probe of Isafp because "it will end up pointing at her." *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac*

ARCHBISHOP Oscar Cruz

'It took lies for truth to be known'

FOR ARCHBISHOP OSCAR Cruz, the "Hello Garci" scandal is now a closed book and it's time for President Macapagal-Arroyo to concede defeat.

Cruz said the events of the last few months culminating in former poll commissioner Virgilio Garciliano's congressional testimony Wednesday proved that the 2004 elections were "fraudulent and her assumption to office was not warranted."

"The truth has ultimately come out in the open. And it took lies upon lies for truth to be known at last," the prelate said. "What a strange way of knowing the truth!"

Cruz said Ms Arroyo should now explore a key option mentioned by the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in its July 10 pastoral letter.

"According to the CBCP, resignation remains an option for the Malacañang occupant. And this appears to be the better option," he said.

Cruz said it would no longer matter what Garcillano would say in his next congressional appearance, adding it was clear that the presidential election was anything but clean.

Christian V. Esguerra

InqBox Question of the Week

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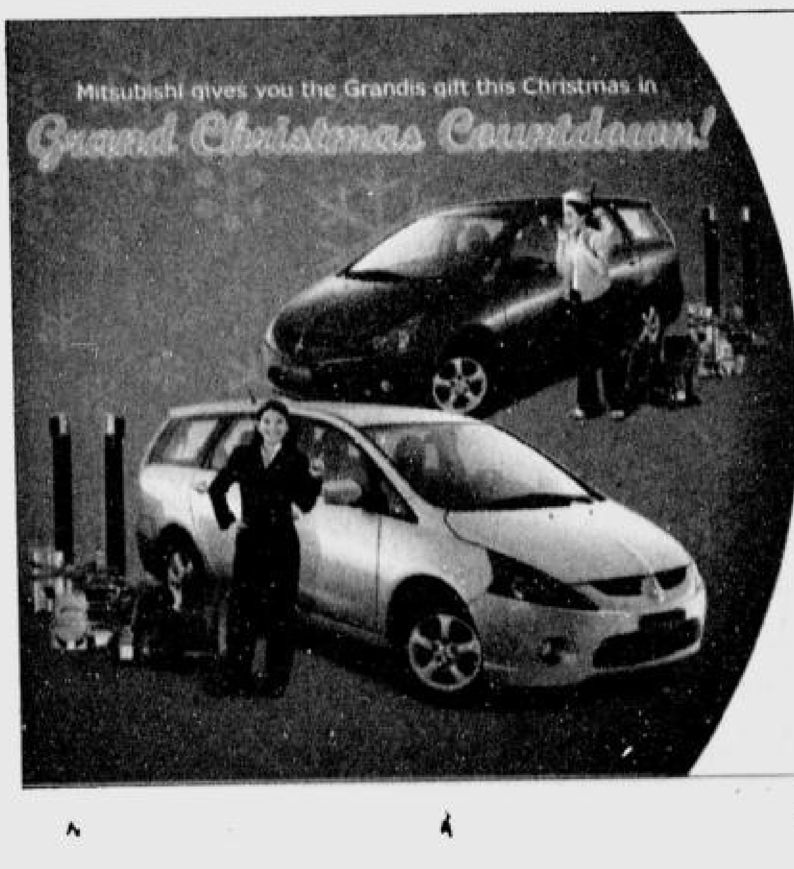

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Manzano's kin seek justice

METROBRIEFS

Less crimes solved

LAS PIÑAS City police would have solved more crimes this year if the public had only cooperated, said city police chief Supt. Josephus Angan. Statistics showed that out of the 461 crimes recorded from January to October 2005, the Las Piñas police solved about 358 crimes for a 77.66 crime solution efficiency. This was 19.99 percentage points lower than last year's 97.65 percent. From January to October 2004, only 14 out of the 597 crimes were unsolved, the report said. Robbery and theft incidents also went up in Las Piñas by 61 percent from 137 to 222 cases this year. Angan attributed the increase in the volume of crimes this year to his new policy which required all police precincts in his jurisdiction to report all-crime incidents to the headquarters. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Police seize cellphones

OPERATIVES of the Central Police District Intelligence and Investigation Unit raided several stalls inside a mall along Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City Thursday evening for allegedly selling suspected stolen cellular phones. Armed with 10 search warrants issued by the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Alexander S. Balut of Branch 76, policemen seized and confiscated supposed second hand cell phones and batteries from the stores located inside the mall. Confiscated were 14 Nokia cell phones and 63 batteries. The raid was conducted following a report that bags of secondhand cell phones were being sold in the area. "Stolen cell phones are no longer sold by piece, they store them and sell it in bulk," said Supt. David Allauigan. He added that the raid was just the second wave of their series of programs to drastically reduce the incidence of cell phone snatching and robberies. *Nancy Carvajal*

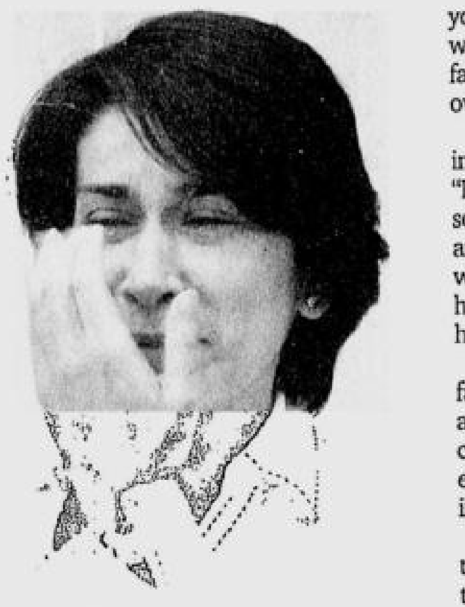
Jeepney kills boy

AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD boy died Thursday afternoon after a jeepney hit him in Parañaque City. The jeepney with plate number PWR 933 was plying the stretch of Dr. Abad Santos Avenue (Sucat Road) when it hit the boy at 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, said SP04 Renaldo dela Peña in his report. The boy, identified as Oliver Olympo of 44 Purok 1 Silverio Compound, was rushed to the Olivarez Hospital but was declared dead on arrival. The jeepney driver identified as Charlito Encabo, 44, of 6011 Tramo St., San Dionisio was immediately arrested. He was charged with reckless imprudence resulting in homicide before the Parañaque City Prosecutor's Office. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Cash gift for elderly

THE PASIG City government will distribute Christmas gifts to the more than 18,000 registered senior citizens (aged 60 above) in the city. The gift takes the form of a P1,000-bill. "This is our way of remembering the elderly, of recognizing their contribution to our society, this yuletide season." City Mayor Vicente Eusebio said in a statement. To receive the cash gift, senior citizens in the city would just have to go to their Barangay Halls and present their senior citizen's card. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

THE FAMILY OF ONE OF THREE SUSPECTED car thieves killed in a clash with police have agreed to have his remains exhumed and reexamined, ending weeks of silence and starting what they said was a quest for justice and a "search for the truth."


JENNIFER Manzano
RUDY ESPERAS

The family of Francis Xavier Manzano, 26, who was killed in a gunfight with police last month with two other suspected car thieves, said Manzano was wrongly reported as a car thief.

"Francis was not accorded the rule of law," said Jennifer, 37, Francis' sister. "He was not a criminal, yet he was treated like the worst kind of criminal."

Jennifer said the family was now ready to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights, which is investigating allegations that Manzano, Anton Cu-Unjieng and Brian Anthony Dulay were murdered by police.

The three, accused of being car thieves, were killed Nov. 7 at the Ortigas Business Center by agents of the Traffic Management Group (TMG).

The TMG said the three were killed in a gunfight, but witnesses were quoted as saying the young men never fired at the policemen.

Footage taken by TV station UNTV showed the police used "excessive force" against the three, according to lawyer Theodore Te, counsel of the Manzano family.

"We cannot turn a blind eye to the video footage of the killings as well as the testimony of eyewitnesses that show beyond any doubt that those who killed (Manzano) disregarded the rules of engagement and violated his fundamental human rights," Jennifer said.

She said Francis, the youngest of five siblings who was called in the family as FX, never owned a gun.

"We don't have a gun in the family," she said. "Francis has been described as a criminal and a carjacker by those who took his life... But he was not a criminal, he was not a carjacker."

She said it took the family "much reflection and prayer" before deciding to have his body exhumed and reexamined.

The family also chose to keep quiet for a long time.

"We are also a very private family, with no desire to engage in public mudslinging with anyone," Jennifer said.

"However, we believe that we owe it to our brother as well as to our late parents to not allow our name to be trampled upon and vilified," she added.

The body was exhumed Nov. 26-27 in Baguio City. It is already being reexamined by forensic expert Raquel Fortun as part of an ongoing investigation.

Te said the family doesn't know how long the examination would take or when its results would be known. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Metro cops gear up for Christmas traffic

By Tina G. Santos

TO UNCLOG TRAFFIC DURING the Yuletide season, the Manila Police District has formulated a systematic traffic management scheme, particularly in the city's commercial areas and shopping centers.

MPD Director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said the traffic management improvement plan was devised to address the huge volume of motorists and shoppers who are expected to troop to Divisoria, considered the city's shopping district.

The MPD Traffic Management Group (TEG) led by Supt. Roberto dela Rosa established several "No Loading and Unloading" zones in areas that would clog the smooth flow of vehicles along Felipe II Street, where two huge shopping malls—168 Mall and Meisic Mall—are located.

Under the traffic scheme, public utility vehicles will only be allowed to load and unload passengers at designated areas including the west side portion of Reina Regente Street.

The TEG has also recommended the installation of steel railings along Reina Regente Street from the corner of Felipe II Street up to Alvarado Street to prevent counter flow violations in the traffic congested area.

Pedestrian lanes were also put up specifically across the Meisic Mall to ensure the safety of shoppers crossing the road.

The MPD chief has directed the TEG to enforce a one-way traffic flow of vehicles along Felipe II, Meisic, Gen. La Cambre, and Dela Reina Streets from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. to decongest the streets during the morning and afternoon rush hours.

Tricycles and *pedicabs* will also be prohibited from crossing Reina Regente and Soler Streets to prevent accidents and to ensure that the usual traffic flow is not obstructed.

Manila policemen will also put up street signs and proper intersection arrow signs to guide motorists around the area.

Likewise, traffic authorities urged mall owners to assign security officers outside their premises to help reduce traffic congestion and direct the flow of pedestrians.

Defective US F-16 gets new engine

A US AIR FORCE C-130 AIRCRAFT ARrived Thursday afternoon at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1 to deliver the new engine for the F-16 multirole fighter jet that made an emergency landing at the Naia more than two weeks ago.

It was initially reported that the supersonic jet, one of the US military's more advanced fighter aircraft, lost its hydraulics and emergency brakes en route to the US Misawa Air Base in Japan from Singapore, forcing it to make an emergency landing at the Naia.

Inspection of the jet, with body number WW 824 AF 90 and piloted by Capt. Justin Dupuis, showed that its engine had to be replaced, an airport source said.

It might take another two to three days for the engine change to be completed, the source added. *Nikko Dizon*

Popularity and governance

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S POPUlarity has again dropped to another all-time low despite a strong peso, a resurgent stock market and falling oil prices.

Her net satisfaction rating, according to the Social Weather Stations (SWS), went down to negative 30, her second lowest since becoming President in 2001.

Compared to the lowest ratings of her predecessors—Cory Aquino at 7 percent; Fidel Ramos at 1 percent and Erap at 5 percent—GMA's popularity is indeed very discouraging.

However, it's not popularity that should be the basis of governance. If popularity were to be the basis for governance, then a leader would not make unpopular decisions or not make decisions at all to please his or her constituents.

But governance is not about popularity. It's about how much benefit will accrue to the citizenry as a result of even an unpopular decision.

Perhaps the citizenry had not yet realized the benefits of a strong peso, a resurgent stock market and falling oil prices when the survey was taken.

* * *

Many leaders were unpopular with their constituents as a result of wrong perceptions about them.

One such leader was Abraham Lincoln, who abolished slavery in the Southern states of the Union.

His decision to free all Negro slaves led to the Civil War. Of course, most Americans at that time didn't want fratricidal bloodshed.

Luck was on Lincoln's side because the North won against the pro-slavery South.

Lincoln endeared himself to his people after he died.

I'm not saying GMA should die before the people would love her. I'm saying that right now she might be hated by the majority, but the perception could change later.

A leader's popularity or unpopularity changes with people's perception of his or her leadership.

* * *

Right now, people don't realize GMA is doing everything to make life more bearable to the poor in these hard times.

One of her pet projects is to bring down the cost of medicines by importing medicines from India which cost much less than the ones sold in local drugstores.

Through the Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC), GMA is helping small and medium pharmaceutical firms by buying their medicines.

Small and medium manufacturers lose to the multinationals even if the medicines of the former are just as effective as the latter. Multinationals advertise their products; medium and small ones don't have the money to advertise.

By buying the medicines from medium pharmaceutical firms, the PITC brings down the cost of medicines. Multinationals price their products high because of advertising costs and other overheads. Small and medium-scale firms don't advertise, and therefore can sell their products at a low price.

* * *

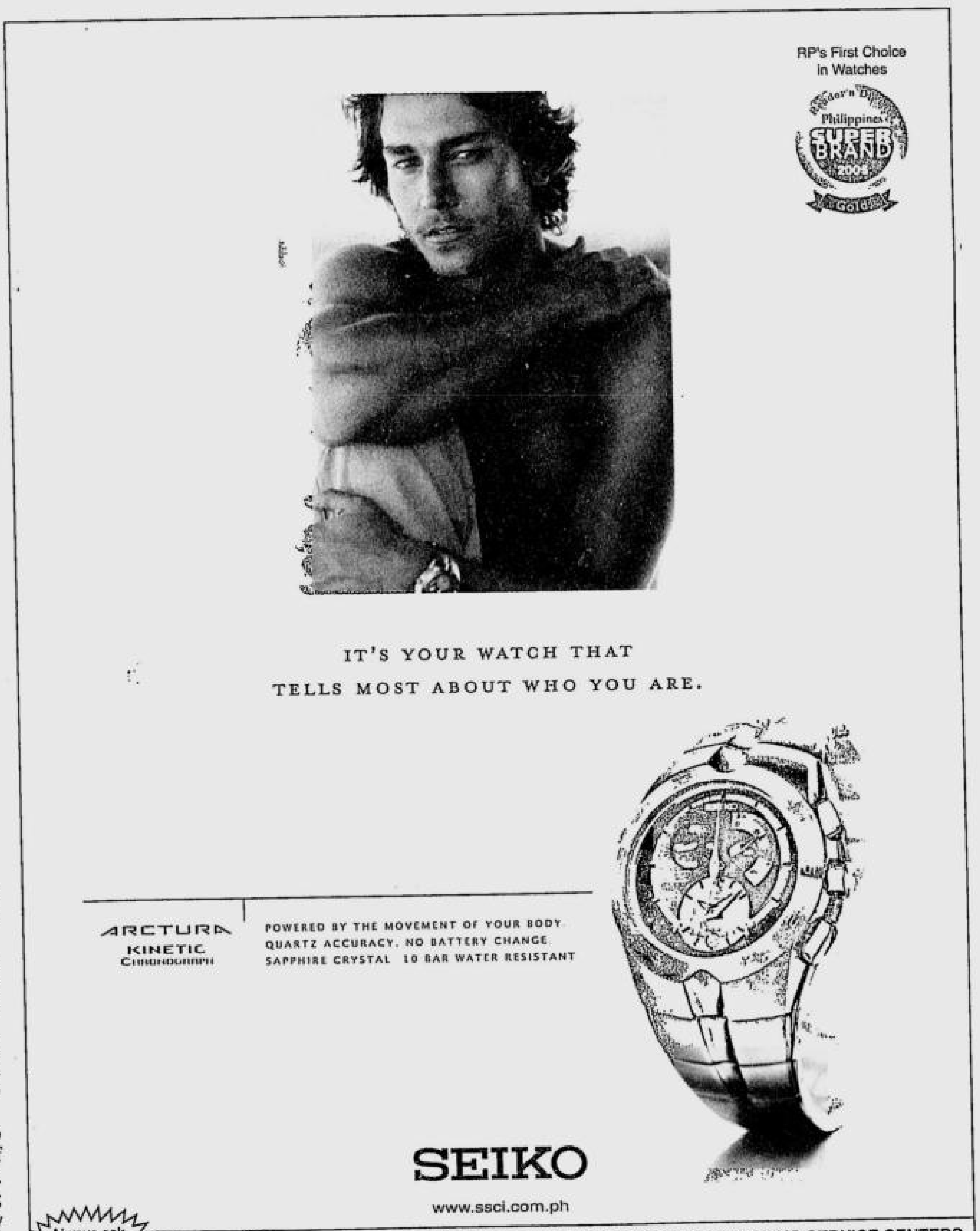
I took part in the two-day First Invitational World Arnis Competition held at the Camp Crame gymnasium which ended yesterday, and I'd like to tell you that I felt embarrassed because of the venue.

Camp Crame's gym's toilet stunk to high heavens. I didn't see anybody cleaning it.

I said I felt embarrassed because the competition participants, aside from the Philippines, came from Australia, US, England, Scotland, Italy, Singapore and Vietnam.

The gym should have been spruced up for the world tournament.

Nqkakahiya!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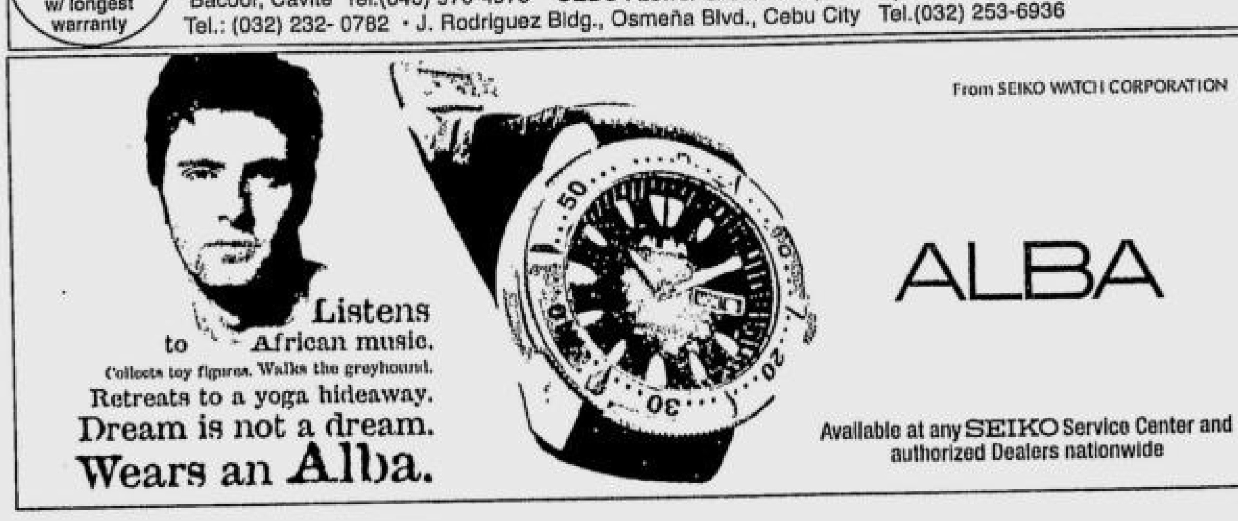
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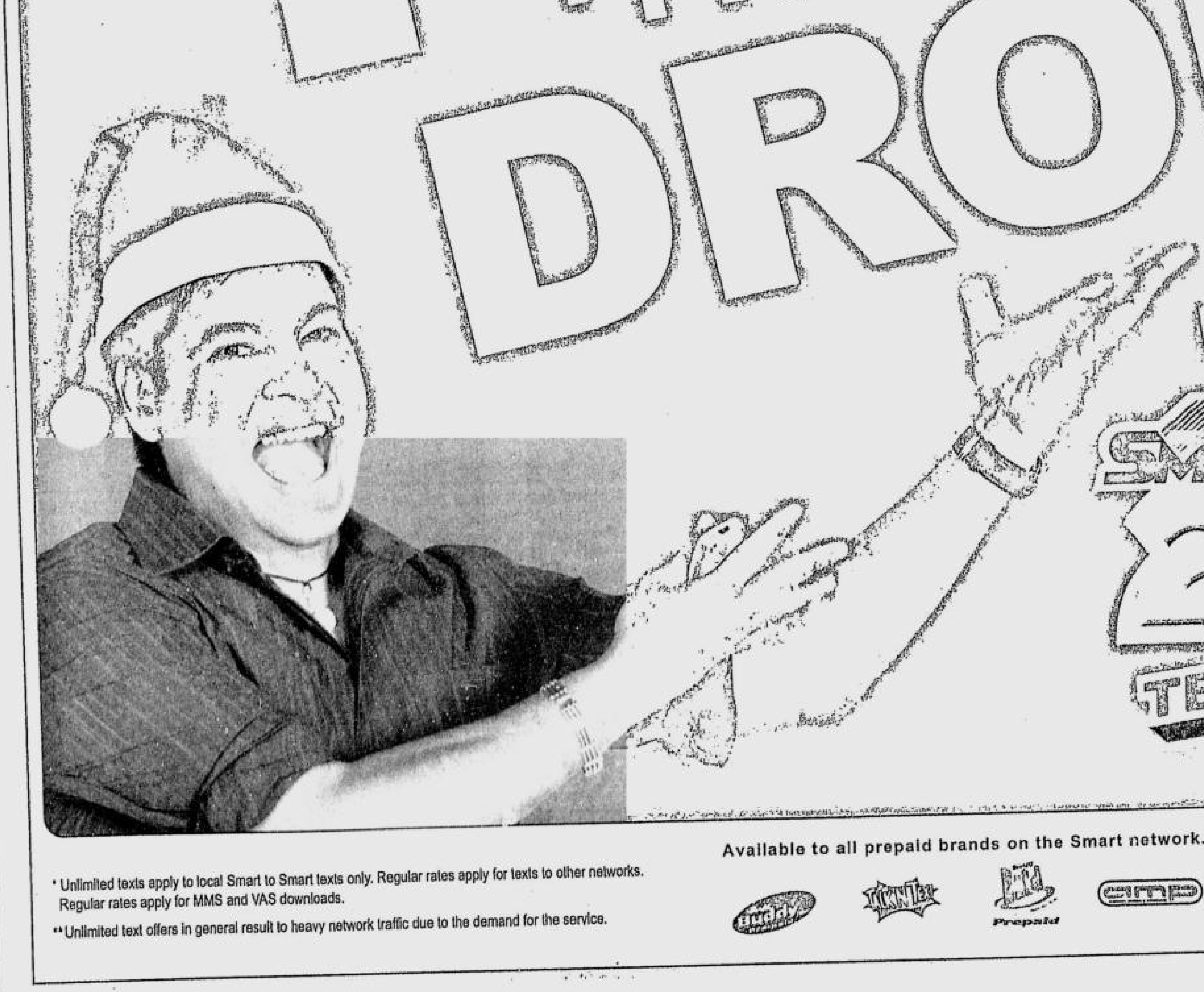

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REV

Wizards try to rebound vs Tortillos

NO ONE EXPECTED MAGNOLIA ICE CREAM to absorb its first loss against league rookie Far Eastern Insurance last Thursday.

But the setback won't saddle the Wizards when they take on the Granny Goose Tortillos in the PBL Heroes Cup at 4 p.m. today at the FEU Gym.

The Insurers boosted their stock after 65-60 conquest of the Wizards. And odds look even when they gun for their third straight win against Hapee-PCU at 2 p.m.

With Kelly Williams and Arwind Santos still the scoring options, the Wizards remain the favorites.

The Tortilllos, who will miss the injured JR Quiñahan, are seeking a share of the lead with the Wizards at 5-2.

Power forward Alfie Grijaldo ably filled in for Quiñahan last Thursday, shooting 12 points in the Tortillos' 77-71 triumph over Rain or Shine.

Magnolia repulsed Granny Goose in their first encounter, 79-70. Hapee-PCU also hopes for a repeat of its 65-54 drubbing of Far Eastern Insurance.

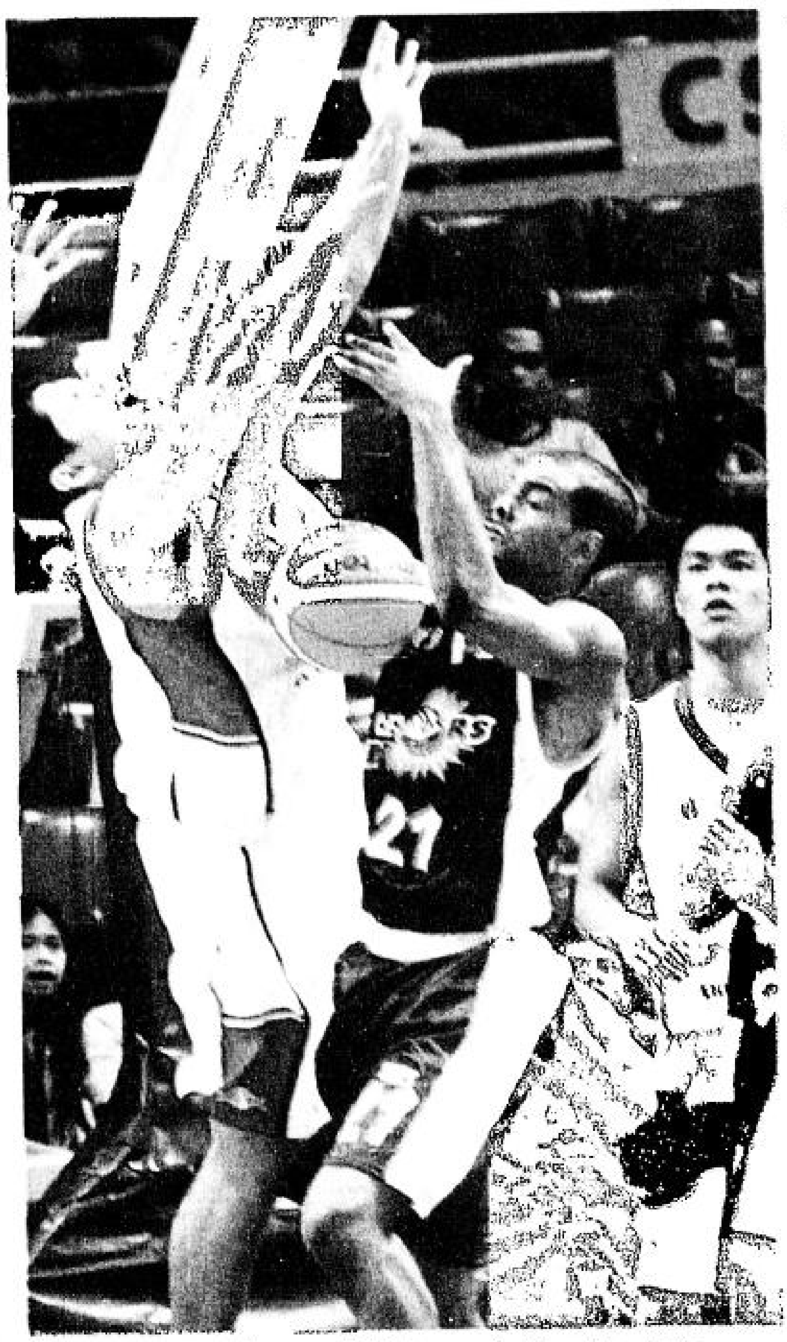
The Teethmasters will bank on clutch shooters Jason Castro, Robert Sanz and Joferson Gonzales.

Meanwhile, LA Tenorio will be back in action for Harbour Centre on Sunday against Montaña Pawnshop.

Jasmine W. Payo

STANDINGS	W	L
Magnolia	5	1
G. Goose	4	2
R. or Shine	3	3
Montaña	3	3
Hapee	3	3
Harbour	2	4
Toyota Otis	2	4
Far E. Ins.	2	4

GAMES TODAY
(*FEU Gym*)
2 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Far Eastern Ins.
4 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Magnolia



RED Bull's Enrico Villanueva (left) draws a foul from Sta. Lucia Realty's Damian Owens during their game last night. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Realtors turn back Barako in double OT

By June Navarro

DAMIAN OWENS PUT UP video-game figures and carried Sta. Lucia Realty to a nail-biting 105-104 double overtime win over Red Bull Barako in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference last night at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Atoning for a pathetic debut, Owens posted a rare triple-double with 25 points, 16 rebounds and 11 steals to help the Realtors improve to 6-8 and snap a two-game slide.

"Getting those steals was nothing new," said Owens after finishing three assists shy of a highly unusual quadruple-double.

But apart from those figures, Owens' magical shot in the closing seconds mattered most.

Owens, who led the Realtors to their only championship in the 2001 Governors Cup, received a drop pass from Dennis Espino underneath for the marginal basket that dropped the Barako to 7-7.

In the second game, San Miguel's locals took charge in the third quarter as the Beermen cruised to a 90-76 victory over Coca-Cola for their fourth win against eight losses.

Coca-Cola fell to 5-7.

GAME TODAY
(*Ormoc City*)
4:30 p.m.—Air21 vs Barangay Ginebra
GAMES TOMORROW
(*Ynares Center*)
4:10 p.m.—Purefoods vs San Miguel Beer
6:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk 'N Text

The scores:

First Game

STA. LUCIA 105—Owens 25, Mendoza 18, Cabagnot 14, Espino 13, Aquino 12, Tolomia 11, Duremdes 9, Omolon 2, Calimag 1, Calli 0.

RED BULL 104—Greer 29, Torion 17, Pennisi 14, Tugade 12, Bagulo 8, Villanueva 8, Fonacier 5, Najorda 4, Ybañez 3, Bugia 2, Valenzuela 2, Cruz 0.

Quarters: 17-16, 40-42, 61-63, 85-85, 96-96, 105-104

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 90—Belasco 17, Johnson 14, Hontiveros 14, Ildefonso 12, Peña 11, Lopez 8, Seigle 8, Hubalde 2, Villoria 2, Racela 2, Tejada 0, Adriano 0, Calagulo 0.

COCA-COLA 76—Thomas 23, Arigo 16, Mamaril 9, Reavis 8, Espinosa 7, Singson 4, Antonio 3, Wainwright 2, Peek 2, Francisco 2, Raneses 0, Juinio 0, Morano 0

Quarters: 26-21, 46-42, 73-58, 90-76

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Altis 1.8 E A/T	878.000	100,000	66.560	45,836	36.536	26,072	21,038	18,160
Altis 1.6 E A/T	800 000	100,000	59,539	41,000	32,688	23,326	18,822	16,244
Altis 1.6 E M/T	765,000	100,000	56,388	38,831	30,962	22,094	17,828	15,385
Altis 1.6 J M/T	708 000	100,000	51 257	35 297	28,150	20.088	16,200	13 985

MODEL	SRP	DOWNPAYMENT	12	18	24	36	48	60
Innova 2.5 G A/T	1,045,000	100,000	82,030	56,495	45.014	32,122	25,919	22,384
Innova 2.5 G M/T	980.000	100,000	76,188	52,466	41,807	29,834	24,073	20,787
Innova 2.0 G A/T	985,000	100,000	76.638	52,776	42 054	30.010	24,215	20,910
Innova 2.0 G M/T	930.000	100,000	71.687	49,366	39.341	28.074	22 653	19,559
Innova 2.5 E M/T	885,000	100,000	67.636	46,576	37.121	26,489	21.374	18,454
Innova 2.5 J M/T	798.000	100,000	59,804	41,183	32.829	23,427	18,903	16,317
Innova 2.0 J M/T	748.000	100,000	55,303	38 064	30 362	21,667	17,483	15 089

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Nike's Am lead down to 4 as S'woods gains ground

By Musong R. Castillo

BAGUIO CITY—THE TWO DEFENDING champion Nike golf teams churned out contrasting rounds yesterday and Southwoods gained some ground on the favorites after 54 holes of the 56th Fil-Am Invitational championships in two separate courses here.

Nike's Fil team was still explosive, getting 40 points—equivalent to four-under-par 65 in stroke play at the Camp John Hay layout—from former RP Amateur champ Jun Bernis, and 38 from Jay Bayron to post 148 for the day and a 415 aggregate.

But junior star Tonlits Asistio and Anthony Fernando both carded 40s to lead Southwoods to a day-best 152, counting the 37 of Gene Bondoc and the 35 of Erwin Vinluan, and take four points off Nike's 19-point lead overnight.

Dave Hernandez and Boyet Saragoza both carded 30s at the tough and hilly Baguio Country Club, where Southwoods crept to within four points of Nike's Am lead after getting 32 points from Mico Alejandrino and 31 from Jong Laput.

ASISTIO: Six birdies—and an eagle.

Ronnie Torrecampo and Jonel Ababa's identical 29s were the other two cards that counted in Nike Am's 118 for 404.

The Carmona-based Southwoods also got 29 points from Hanson So Jr. and 28 from RP team member Michael Bibat.

"It's still wide open," said Nike team consultant Tommy Manotoc, the spearhead of the team's smashing 46-point victory, also over Southwoods, last year.

"I think the Am fight will go down to the last four holes (of the Country Club)."

Royal Caribbean totaled 108 and stayed in third spot in the Am flight with a 381 aggregate. It drew 31 points from Jingy Tuazon and 29 from recently crowned Asia-Pacific senior champion Iggy Clavecilla.

Asistio and Fernando both had eagles, with Asistio chipping in on the 267-yard par-4 eighth and gunning down six more birdies to cushion two bogeys and a pickup on the 165-yard par-3 fourth.

Fernando drove the 226-yard par-4 12th and had four birdies and a bogey, while Bernis had nines of 34-32.

Veteran Abe Rosal shot a level 69 for 36 points and National Caddies' Open product Mario Labajo struggled with a 34 that counted for Nike, which threw away the 32 of fagged out Southeast Asian Games individual gold medalist Juvic Pagunsan.

Del Monte's Buboy Jaraula frolicked on a day of low scoring at John Hay, setting a Fil-Am record 44 points after an eight-under 61 built around a 26 in the back nine.

Despite Jaraula's round, Del Monte, the 2004 Philippine Airlines Interclub champ, could only total 146 to stay in third spot in the Fil race. It lay 16 behind Southwoods and 31 off Nike as the team's next best score was a 35 from Joel Opaco.

Louie Dacudao carded 34 points and Paul Miñoza counted for the first time in three days with a 33 for Del Monte.

Korean Kim Chang-hoi turned in 37 points and led Mizuno-DHL to 140 for the day. In fourth spot in the Fil flight with 371, Mizuno-DHL also drew 35s from Kevin Tayao and Marvin Dumandan and either of the 33s of Raffy Garcia or Raymund Sangil.

Yeo's PBA future dim after angry outburst—Eala

By Jasmine W. Payo

IF LA SALLE STAR JOSEPH YEO WANTS to turn pro, his application could be in peril after he figured in a scuffle during a PBA-sanctioned exhibition game late Thursday night.

"His actions will have a big bearing on his eligibility in the draft," said commissioner Noli Eala yesterday. "The criteria for acceptance are strictly followed."

Yeo, who just played his final year in the UAAP, hit former Ateneo standout Rico Villanueva on the face with his forearm with 10:27 minutes left in the third quarter of the Ateneo-La Salle Dream Game at the Araneta Coliseum. The Eagles were ahead, 44-39.

Villanueva, Red Bull's 6-foot-5 center, suffered cuts on the nose and upper lip, and Yeo was ejected from the supposedly friendly match between the rival schools.

"We are already studying our options," said Eala. "One, to disqualify him from the (rookie) draft. Two, make him ineligible for some time. Three, let him be drafted then suspend him."

Added Eala: "He should realize that basketball doesn't end with playing for Ateneo or La Salle."

The commissioner recalled a similar incident in the 2003 quarterfinal match between Red Bull and Talk 'N Text when Jimwell Torion broke Jimmy Alapag's nose.

"What (Yeo) did can be likened to what Torion did to Alapag and that merited a suspension," said Eala.

Yeo, the 6-foot-1 guard known for his acrobatic drives to the basket, was tabbed as among the early favorites in next year's PBA rookie draft, along with amateur stars Arwind Santos of Far Eastern University and LA Tenorio of Ateneo.

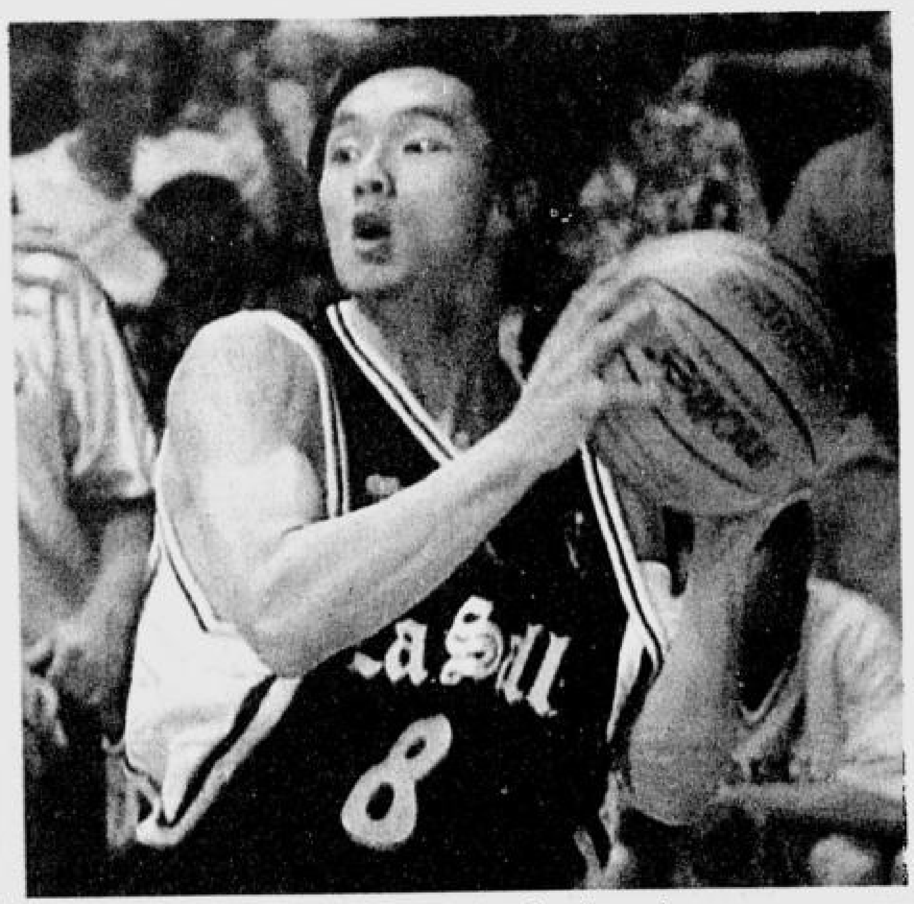
"There's a big question mark following his actions," said Eala. "His application will certainly be scrutinized. What can Joseph Yeo do? Very little."

After Villanueva was assaulted, Ateneo almost pulled out of the All Stars exhibition game that featured top PBA and varsity players from the two schools.

"I wanted to end it," said Ateneo's All Star coach Chot Reyes, noting that Ateneo president Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, SJ, had relayed similar instructions. "I felt that it's not worth it. I was afraid that if we continued, it would escalate. But the organizers decided to just let the pros to continue, so that settled it."

The game was stalled for about 45 minutes before the Eagles triumphed over the Archers, 88-85, with Villanueva burying a three-pointer with one second remaining.

Most Valuable Player Larry Fonacier delivered a game-high 30 points.


UNDER THE GUN: Joseph Yeo draws the ire of pro league bosses. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

In the Legends match, La Salle turned to '80s varsity standout Joey Sta. Maria for a 63-59 victory over the Ateneo Legends.

Named MVP, Sta. Maria scored 15 points. San Miguel head coach Jong Uichico added 14.

The scores:

First Game (Legends)

LA SALLE 63—Sta. Maria 15, Uichico 14, Manguera 8, Eng Beng 6, Perez 6, Yap 5, Puentabella 4, Malixi 2, Sagarbaria 2, Ley 1, Tanjuatco 0, Gonzales 0, Misa 0, Mirasol 0, Uy 0, Marquez 0, Uichico 0, Liwag 0, Velasco 0, Garcia 0, Bautista 0.

ATENEO 59—G. Afable 11, Carpio 9, Lastimosa 8, C. Afable 7, Rabat 4, Tioseco 4, Reyes 4, Gamboa 3, Nieto 3, Campos 2, Mistades 2, Ijares 1, Panlilio 1, Alabanza 0, Estacio 0, Henares 0, Labadan 0, Morales 0, Mendoza 0.

Quarters: 6-11, 22-29, 42-48, 63-59

Second Game (All Stars)

ATENEO 88—Fonacier 30, Villanueva 27, Alvarez 12, Bugia 6, Gonzales 4, Intal 4, Chia 3, Tenorio 2, Racela 0, Kramer 0, Hizon 0, Aguilar 0.

LA SALLE 85—Allado 18, Cardona 14, Telan 11, Ritualo 13, Cortez 8, Yeo 7, Araña 6, Limpot 4, Cuan 2, Cabatu 2, Maierhofer 0, Wilson 0.

Quarters: 20-22, 44-37, 62-56, 88-85

ROSALES:

Int'l Team leads Asia as Rosales-Park loses

SINGAPORE—ANNIKA SORENSTAM AND PAULA Creamer, the top two players in the world this year, gave the International Team a 4-2 lead over Asia after the opening foursomes of the inaugural Lexus Cup on Friday.

The home side made an inspired start when Hee-Won Han and Candie Kung beat Janice Moodie and Carin Koch, 5 and 4, and teenage South Korean twins Aree and Naree Song routed Natalie Gulbis and Jill McGill by the same edge.

But Sophie Gustafson and Suzann Pettersen pulled of a 3-and-2 win over Asia captain Grace Park and Jennifer Rosales, and Catriona Matthew and Karen Stupples tied the scores with a 5-and-4 win over Japan's Riko Higashjio and Namika Omata.

The best figures of the day came from Sorenstam and teenager Creamer in their 2-and-1 victory over British Open champion Jang Jeong and her fellow South Korean, Meena Lee.

Colombia's Marisa Baena and American Erica Blasberg, widened the lead with a 2-and-1 win over US Open champ Birdie Kim and Gloria Park.

Six four balls are scheduled Saturday.

Luisito's legacy and lament

COMMENTARY

By Percy D. Della

EIGHT GOLD MEDALS DID THE TRICK when the Philippines won the overall boxing title in the just concluded 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Such a feat reminds us of two-time world champion Luisito Espinosa who has brought so much boxing glory to our shores.

Unfortunately Luisito's story is increasingly becoming bizarre and far from complete. The latest chapter includes training to fight a ghost.

That the former champion's topsy-turvy life has taken a tilt for the occult is an understatement.

Luisito, now 38, was TKO'd by a sympathetic athletic commission in California recently. Done in by a string of savage losses to upstarts, he's been disallowed to fight for now in the Golden State.

Enter two friends, late bloomers to Luisito's boxing heritage but are now addicted to it.

Joe Robles, a cop, and Frank Osias, an auto mechanic, now form Espinosa's new management team.

Bucking naysayers, they plan to rebuild Luisito's name—finding the time, money and effort to keep Espinosa sweating it out at the gym.

Even if the training is for a phantom bout at this time.

Such is the life in California today for a world champion who twice scaled the apex of his sport. He held the World Boxing Association bantamweight title in 1989-91 and the World Boxing Council's featherweight belt in 1995-98.

Luisito lives with the Osias household in Fairfield, California. Fall is in the air in America, a bleary season indeed, we imagine for Espinosa.

The fighter should have retired by now due to advanced age and diminished skills. But for someone who earns a living as a fighter, he continues to face the horror that can occur within the ropes.

Life's attractions beyond the ring could have been there for Espinosa if his civil action to claim an unpaid champion's purse of $150,000 from eight years ago had been settled.

Luisito plans to come home for good, invest in a gym, show young boys how to box. And perhaps re-fight past matches of his glory years.

That is, if and when he gets the money due him.

But three years later, the case remains unresolved and had put on the elements of a John Grisham legal drama.

The case was last penciled in for a hearing by a Manila court early this year. For mysterious reasons, that hearing never occurred and, needless to say, remains in legal limbo. It could someday end up in the Guinness Book of World Records, certainly not a feather in the cap of our judicial system.

"I am about ready to throw in the towel," admits broadcaster Hermie Rivera, who filed the case for Luisito. Rivera took over Joe Koizumi as Luisito's manager after he earned the purse for defending his world feather crown in Koronadal in 1997.

Increasing words of despair from Rivera must be music to the ears of ex-governor Larry de Pedro, boxing manager Rod Nazario and matchmaker Lito Mondejar. These inhabitants of the red light district of the sport have selfishly stood their ground.

Paying is farthest from their minds.

But knowing Rivera, he won't call it a night that easy. He will go on seeking the abolition of the Games and Amusement Board for acts inimical to the sport. "It was this agency which allowed this travesty to happen by ordering Louie to fight despite not being paid in full as required," says Rivera.

He will also work for the adoption of a local Ali Boxing Law to look after the interest of fighters taken advantage by unscrupulous promoters, managers and the like.

More power to people helping Luisito get what is rightly his.

And to people grappling with their conscience about the boxer's current plight, two queries:

What have you done to a man whose life is more than boxing—it's about being an ambassador of the Filipino culture?

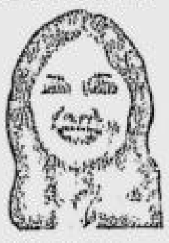
What have you done to a true hero from the slums of Tondo who succeeded to bring down the giants of his game and give us immense pride as a people?

* * *

Sports note: Many thanks to columnist Ramon Tulfo for hosting dinner recently. Mon and us go a long way—back to those salad days at the Philippine News Agency in the early 1970s when we were the brat pack of Joe Pavia's crew. The wife thoroughly enjoyed the food and intimacy (there were only five in the group).

Ateneo-La Salle: A verdict not fit to print

IN HUDDLE


Beth Celis

FROM WHERE I was seated at press row, I could tell the dream was starting to turn into a nightmare for Vintage's Bobong Velez, promoter of last Thursday's Ateneo-La Salle Dream Game.

It was now over 30 minutes since the second and main match was halted following a violent skirmish between Ateneo's Enrico Villanueva and La Salle's Joseph Yeo during a rebound play. No one could be sure if the game would resume, since Ateneo was agitating to end it right there, with almost two quarters still left unplayed.

"To prevent further violence and possibly even a riot," argued Ateneo sports official Ricky Palou who accused PBA commissioner Noli Eala, a fellow Ateneo alumnus, of failing to control his players.

Ricky and Noli were inside the court, where almost all the game officials were milling around. There was only one issue to settle: Would the match continue or not?

With the movement of their lips, and the arch of their eyebrows, I was sure they were hollering at each other. Those who got within earshot confirmed that they were. The verbal tussle was very lengthy and very heated, witnesses swore.

Ricky accused Noli of not being able to control his players. Noli corrected him, saying that on the contrary, he could definitely control his players because he's in a position where he could sanction them. He told Bobong, who looked pale and stunned at this point, that the game could continue even with only the PBA players in each team.

* * *

I must have been chatting with my seatmate because I missed that important piece of action. My attention was only caught when filled beer cans, coins and all sort of missiles started flying onto the court from the general direction of the Ateneo fans who—I only noticed for the first time—was up in arms.

At this point, another commotion started somewhere near the exit. Witnesses said Yeo had made a finger sign (not dirty) to Villanueva which infuriated the latter. It took several pairs of muscled arms to restrain Villanueva from wringing Yeo's neck. I noticed that Villanueva's lips had now swelled like a pair of sausages and they were bleeding.

* * *

"What happened?" I asked the scribe beside me who had watched the game intently.

He said Green Archer Yeo was hit when Villanueva swung his elbows sideways after hauling down the rebound. Thinking it was intentional, Yeo retaliated by hacking Villanueva across the face.

Some witnesses said Yeo did it with a clenched fist, others swore his palms were open and visible.

A Blue Eagle rooter was certain Villanueva's elbow blow was accidental, a Green Archers fan saw it differently. The swing was too strong and deliberate, the latter said.

After almost an hour (50.1 minutes to be exact), Eala and Velez finally succeeded in convincing the Ateneo camp to continue with the game. The coliseum barker announced that the game would resume, but only two amateur cagers would be allowed to play in each team.

For a while, the players just went through the motion, seemingly just to put a closure to the event. But 15.1 seconds into the final buzzer, the crowd came back to life. The score was tied at 85, and La Salle had ball possession. A turnover, a three-point shot from Enrico and the game was over 88-85 in favor of Ateneo.

"Poetic justice," Tempo scribe Tito Talao remarked.

After that, it appeared that the incident was quickly forgotten. Or so it seemed.

* * *

"Close shave," Bobong admitted the morning after. "*Mahal pa rin ako ng Diyos* because if the game was discontinued, all the months of preparation and hard work would have gone to waste."

Not to mention that the spectators might have asked for a refund and the television sponsors could insist on a rebate with contracts left unfulfilled. It could have been a financial catastrophe, but it wasn't.

In fact, Bobong admitted it was a financial success, as he thanked everyone, in particular Eala who played the role of negotiator between him and Ateneo.

"It's unfortunate that such an exciting game and worthy endeavor was marred by Yeo's unsportsmanlike conduct. Things like these happen, though. It's all part of the game," said Noli.

As for La Salle coach Yeng Guiao, while he was pleased with the performance of the Archers, he was even more so with his Red Bull cagers who all played for the opponent. "The Red Bull players killed us. That's the attitude I try to instill in them whenever they play," Yeng said.

Ateneo coach Chot Reyes refused to comment. So did Ricky Palou.

"What I feel is not fit for print," Chot said.

Tribu cops NBC title

ANTIPOLO CITY—SKYGO/SIRLITZ-BACKED Tribu Sugbu beat Rep. Vic Sumulong's Ex-PBA Stars, 74-70, and bagged the Nature's Spring-NBC-Rep. Ronnie Puno Cup Basketball title Thursday at the City Auditorium here.

Shooter Doroteo Almacin again led the Tribesmen of businessman Lito Gillamac and Mario King with 15 points, but it was playmaker Maui Huelar who sealed the triumph with a layup with only 16 seconds left and the ex-pros threatening at 70-72.

National shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla's Spring Cooking Oil crushed Homer Cagers, 97-70, in the opener to place third in the tourney supported by Sulpicio Lines and Spring.

The scores:

TRIBU 74—Almacin 15, Yabut 12, Caingiet 9, Bucao 9, Sanz 8, Butel 6, Huelar 6, Nicdao 5, Ducay 2, Mercado 2.

VS EX-PBA STARS 70—Regalado 18, Fernandez 14, Mendoza 14, Bolado 7, Reyes 5, Pacheco 5, Maglulis 4, Barbosa 3.

Quarters: 21-15, 39-33, 59-48, 74-70

SPRING 97—Manuel 15, Tiongco 14, Corbin 12, Neo 10, Yambao 9, Hubalde 9, Caceres 8, Victolero 8, Reyes 6, De Castro 6

HOMER 70—Zagala 18, Rodriguez 10, Mamaclay 10, Tropa 9, Baltazar 8, Hernandez 7, Legarde 10, Geraldino 2.

Quarters: 23-21, 50-39, 73-54, 97-70

Peñalosa fights Azuaga tonight

EXCITING ACTION IS EXPECTED WHEN FORMER World Boxing Council superfly king Gerry Peñalosa risks his reputation against Paraguayan Dario Azuaga tonight in a 10-round rumble headlining the "Rage in December" card at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City. The match-up pits two colorful fighters who do not back down from a fight. "I know there is no retreat in his vocabulary, so we will have a fight," said the southpaw Peñalosa, who did most of his training at the ALA Gym in Cebu.

Salven L. Lagumbay

Speedfest moved to Dec. 17-18

THE FINAL LEG OF the Ultimate Red Horse Beer-Smart Buddy Speedfest Championship has been moved to Dec. 17-18 due to incessant rains, especially around Baras, Rizal. "The tracks are flooded," said Mike Potenciano, MP Turbo's organizing chief. "It's the best track now for the 4x4 vehicles but not passable for motorcycles." The Palo Alto Racetrack is at the Palo Alto subdivision developed by Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. Baras Mayor Wilfredo Robles will be having a "Musikero Competition" on Dec. 17 with the Speedfest. Call or text MP Turbo at 0919-4921576 or email at mpturbo@my destiny.net.

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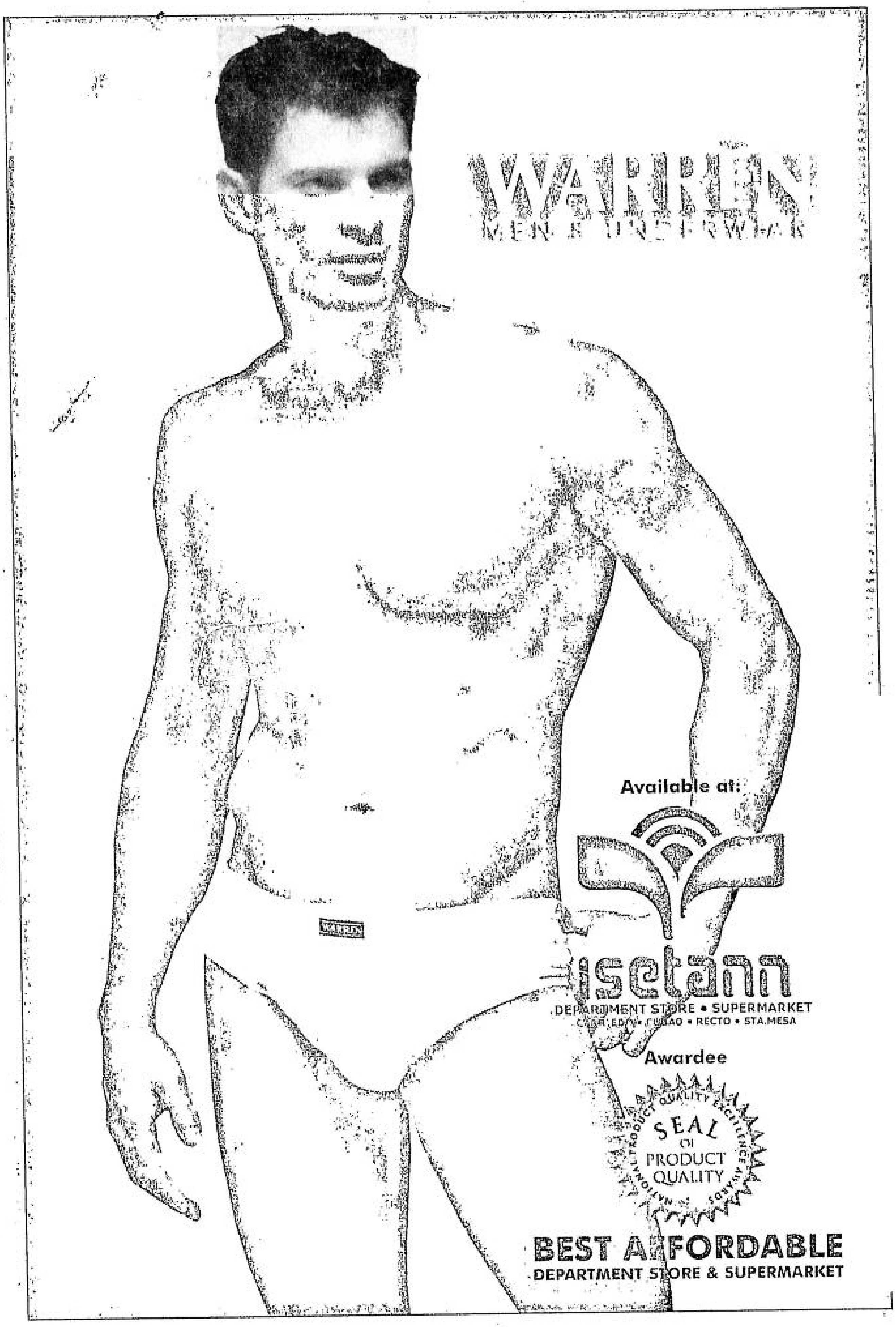
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Miñoza, Que make cut easily

BANGKOK—FILIPINO FRANKIE Miñoza and Angelo Que easily made it to the last two rounds of the Volvo Masters of Asia, the Asian Tour's final tournament of the season, Friday, but they now trail solo leader Shiv Kapur of India by 11 strokes at the Thai Country Club.

Miñoza added a 2-over-par 74 (37-37) to his opening 70 while Que had another 72 (35-37) as the Filipinos wound up in an eight-way tie at even par 144. Miñoza fumbled on his final hole in both nines.

Kapur shot a 67 for a 133 total for 36 holes, a stroke ahead of compatriot Jyoti Randhawan, who rallied with a 64.

Aussie Andrew Buckle, who shared the first-round lead, fired a 71 and dropped to third at 137.

Pacers, Rockets cruise past foes

INDIANAPOLIS—STEPHEN JACKSON scored 30 points and Jermaine O'Neal had 25 to help the Indiana Pacers beat the Washington Wizards 111-87 on Thursday.

The Pacers bounced back from losses to Seattle and Dallas, despite playing without forward Ron Artest.

Artest, the NBA leader in steals per game and Indiana's second-leading scorer, missed the game because of a right wrist injury.

Without Artest in the lineup, Anthony Johnson and Fred Jones shared the responsibility of guarding Washington star Gilbert Arenas, the league's fourth-leading scorer. Arenas was averaging 28 points, but the Pacers held him to 17 on 5-for-18 shooting.

Antawn Jamison added 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Wizards.

Rockets 106, Kings 95

At Sacramento, California, Tracy McGrady scored 28 points to help Houston extend Sacramento's losing streak to five games.

Yao Ming had 21 points and nine rebounds for Houston, which has won three of four games since McGrady returned to the lineup following a back injury.

Mike Bibby had 24 points and six assists for the Kings, who have lost four games at home for the first time since the 1997-98 season.

NBA ON SOLAR: Solar Sports will air today the game featuring Richard Hamilton and the Detroit Pistons going up against Jason Richardson and the Golden State Warriors. The match starts airing at 11 in the morning.

INDIANA guard Stephen Jackson (left) goes up against Washington center Brendan Haywood.

AP

Nat'l drag race double treat flags off at BRC

MORE THAN 60 CARS ARE EXPECTED TO participate in a double treat when the 2005 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship Series resumes today at the BRC Drag Strip in Rosario, Batangas.

Sonny de Torres is the favorite in the Quick 8 and Pro class as he submitted the fastest dial slip time of 12.047 seconds in this event held in cooperation with the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

The event, which will make use of several safety measures, starts at 9 a.m.

The event is supported by Red Horse, San Miguel Beer, PCSO, Petron, Sparco and supported by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, Denso Spark Plugs, Casino Filipino, GV 99.9 FM and DaBest 98.5 FM.

For details, call the Batangas Racing Circuit at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241.

FG vows to help raise funds for Asiad, too

ARROYO: Euphoric over SEAG triumph

FIRST GENTLEMAN MIKE ARROYO YESTERday said he would again help raise funds to support the country's campaign in the 2006 Asian Games in Doha, Qatar.

Arroyo, who raised P160 million for the training of the athletes during the recent Southeast Asian Games, said the private sector would be more than willing to support after the triumphant SEAG campaign.

However, Arroyo said there might be no need to hold a formal pledging session similar to what he did last year in Malacañang where the movers and shakers of the economy chipped in and adopted national sports associations.

"We will talk once again to the godfathers while they are still euphoric with the SEAG victory and the coming Christmas season," Arroyo said during yesterday's Scoop sa Kamayan sponsored by Accel at Padre Faura in Manila.

Arroyo said the country's new-found athletic fire must be carried on well into the Doha Asiad slated Dec. 1-15, the 2007 Bangkok SEA Games and the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Marc Anthony Reyes

'Malaria' swim today

THE WORLD SWIM FOR MALARIA will be held today in five venues as part of a global effort to raise funds for victims of malaria.

The event, supported by Speedo and the International Swimming Association (Fina), will be held simultaneously at the Rizal Memorial Swimming Complex, Manila; Community Park Swimming Complex, Lipa City; People's Swimming Pool, YMCA Olongapo City; Cebu City Sport's Center; and Ladislawa Country Club, Davao City.

The event aims to recruit one million people to take part in a sponsored swim on the same day to raise funds to purchase millions of mosquito bed-nets that will help prevent the spread of malaria, a disease that is responsible for one to three million deaths a year.

Malaria is the number one cause of child deaths in the world, with the equivalent of seven jumbo jets full of children dying from the disease each day.

The event, organized by Speedo's Swim for a Cause Age Group Swimming competition, is also supported by Metro Active, Bert Lozada Swim School, Philippine Amateur Swimming Association, Philippine Sports Commission, and the Manila Sports Council.

For more information, call up Emmy Buccat at 8078851/61/71 or email swim4malaria@gmail.com.

SPORTSWATCH

80 fights slated at Roligon

ANOTHER big crowd is expected at the 15,000-seat Roligon Mega Cockpit today when the "Incredibol Na, Apordabol Pa" 5-cock derby enters its third round of eliminations. The first of more than 80 fights kicks off at 4 p.m. Thirty participants with two wins each lead the field. This four-day cockfest stakes a guaranteed prize of P2 million and a brand new Mazda. Derby host is Roligon owner Rolly Ligon. All qualifiers will face one another for the title on Monday. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

Foreign bets join 'Salpukan'

A HUGE field of participants, including bets from Hong Kong, Singapore and Japan, have signed up for the Pamaskong Salpukan 6-Cock Derby on Dec. 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 26 and 28 at the Makati Coliseum. The event will be WTJ Sports and Amusement Corporation's first major offering for the 2005-2006 derby season. WTJ is headed by Lito Orillaza, lawyer Rudy Salud and William Co. A prize of P3 million plus a brand Toyota Innova await the winners. Entry fee is P11,000. For details, call 896-3545 and 895-6475.

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NOW SHOWING

Drama and comedy in Diaz, Redford starrers

DIAZ. Holds own against MacLaine and Collette.

By Rito P. Asilo

"In Her Shoes"

D: Curtis Hanson

S: Cameron Diaz, Toni Collette, Shirley MacLaine, Mark Feuerstein

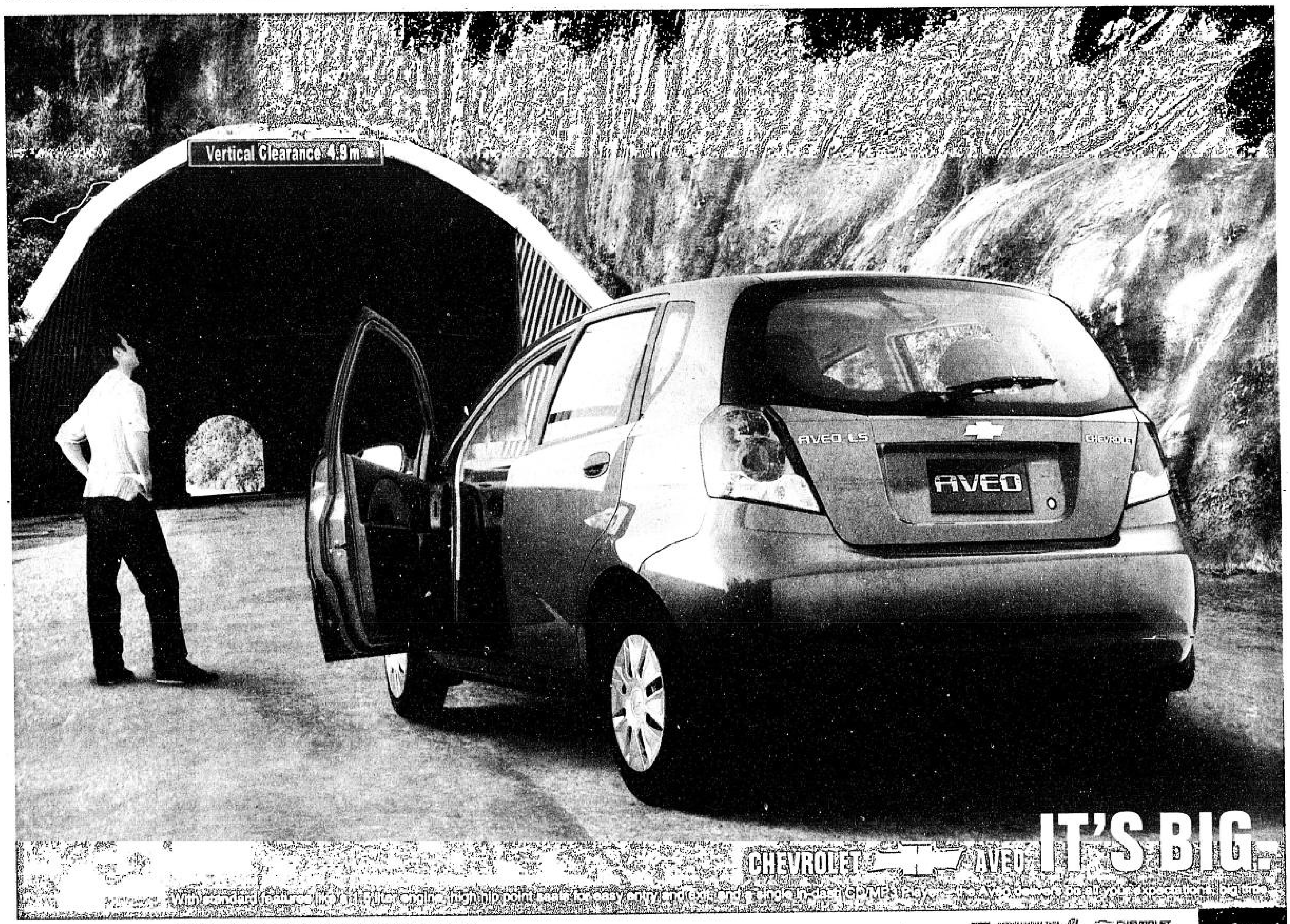
CURTIS HANSON ("L.A. CONFIDENTIAL," "8 Mile") resists chick-flick conventions by transforming the sap-heavy potential of Jennifer Weiner's novel into a smart and empowering tragic-comic tale about living, loving, losing, letting go—and starting again. Does it sound like a surfeit of dramatic mush? Perhaps.

On paper, this engaging parable about sibling rivalry does reek of schmaltz, but Hanson's film rises above the limitations of the genre: After overweight lawyer, Rose (Toni Collette), catches beautiful but dyslexic wild sister, Maggie (Cameron Diaz) in *flagrante delicto* with her lover, Jim (Richard Burgi), she kicks her sister out of her house.

With no job or a place to stay, Maggie is forcibly thrust into the life of grandmother, Ella (Shirley MacLaine), who has been estranged from the siblings for more than 20 years.

Ironically, in the company of the residents of the retirement facility that Ella manages, Maggie finds more than just friendship, a promising career—and self-respect: With the help of a blind retiree, a former university professor, she even overcomes her reading disability!

DRAMA/ A2-2



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Oprah for president?

By Nestor U. Torre

THE NEXT PRESIDENTIAL elections in the United States are expected to see the first nomination of a female contender for that nation's top post.

Landmark

The standard scuttlebutt has it that Hillary Clinton has the inside track on that landmark political event, but more recent developments indicate that she may be getting competition from some heretofore unheralded quarters.

Advantage

There's Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice, who has the added advantage of being not just a woman, but a member of the black minority, to boot. That effectively doubles her vote-getting ability, making her potentially an even stronger contender than Hillary.

Race

But, the race doesn't stop there. Improbable though it may be, some "queenmakers" are placing their bets on—Oprah Winfrey! Like Rice, Oprah is black and female, so she would enjoy the Secretary of State's double-whammy voting advantage.

Even better, Winfrey is a popular TV star, so she has the show biz celebrity factor going for her, as well. *And* she has the mega-millions to fund the splashiest and most media-savvy campaign.

Expertise

Another advantage is that, as a show biz veteran, Winfrey has learned how to use the media, specifically television, and she could employ this expertise to convince viewer-voters to support her candidacy. Since US presidential campaigns have been run mainly on TV for decades now, that's a formidable plus factor.

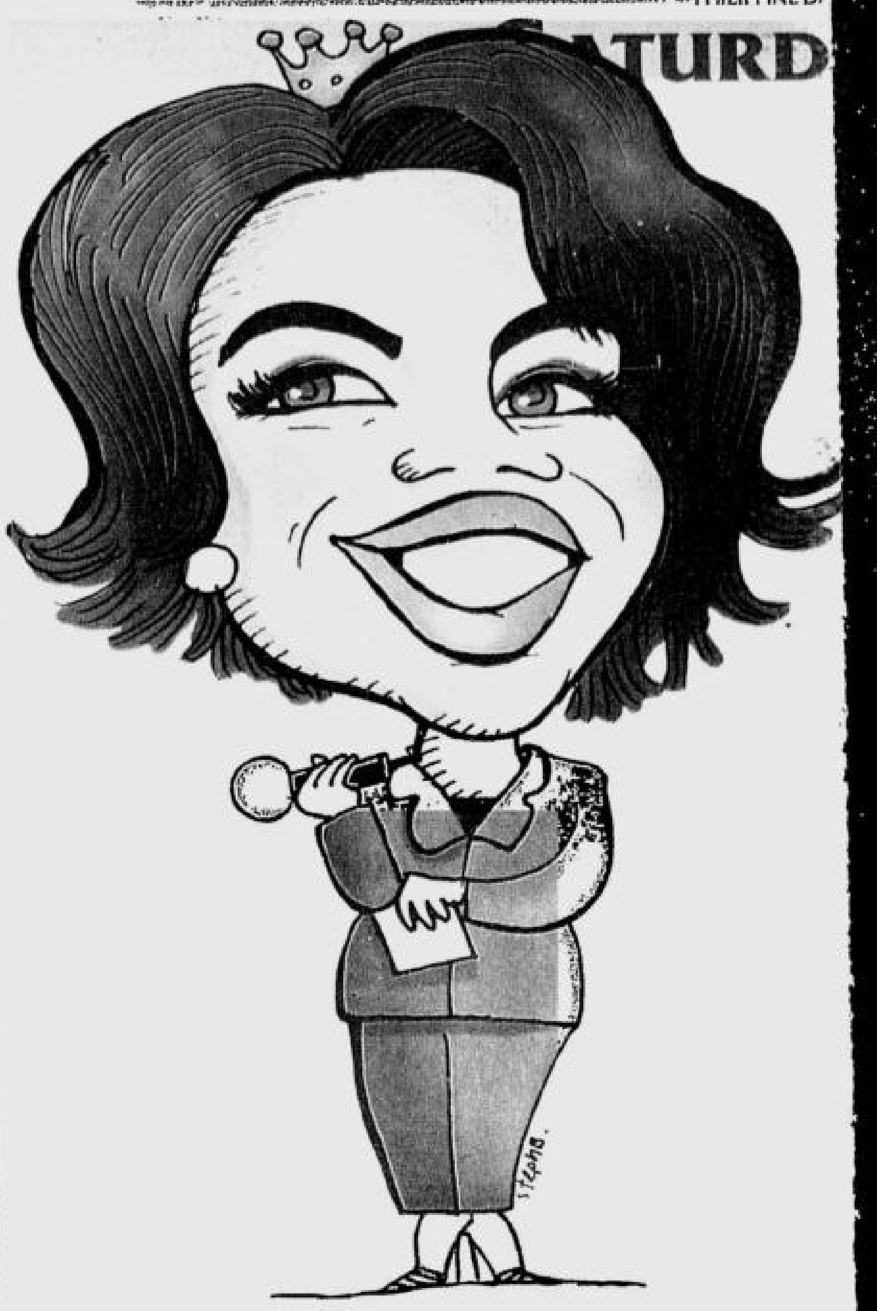
Lack of interest

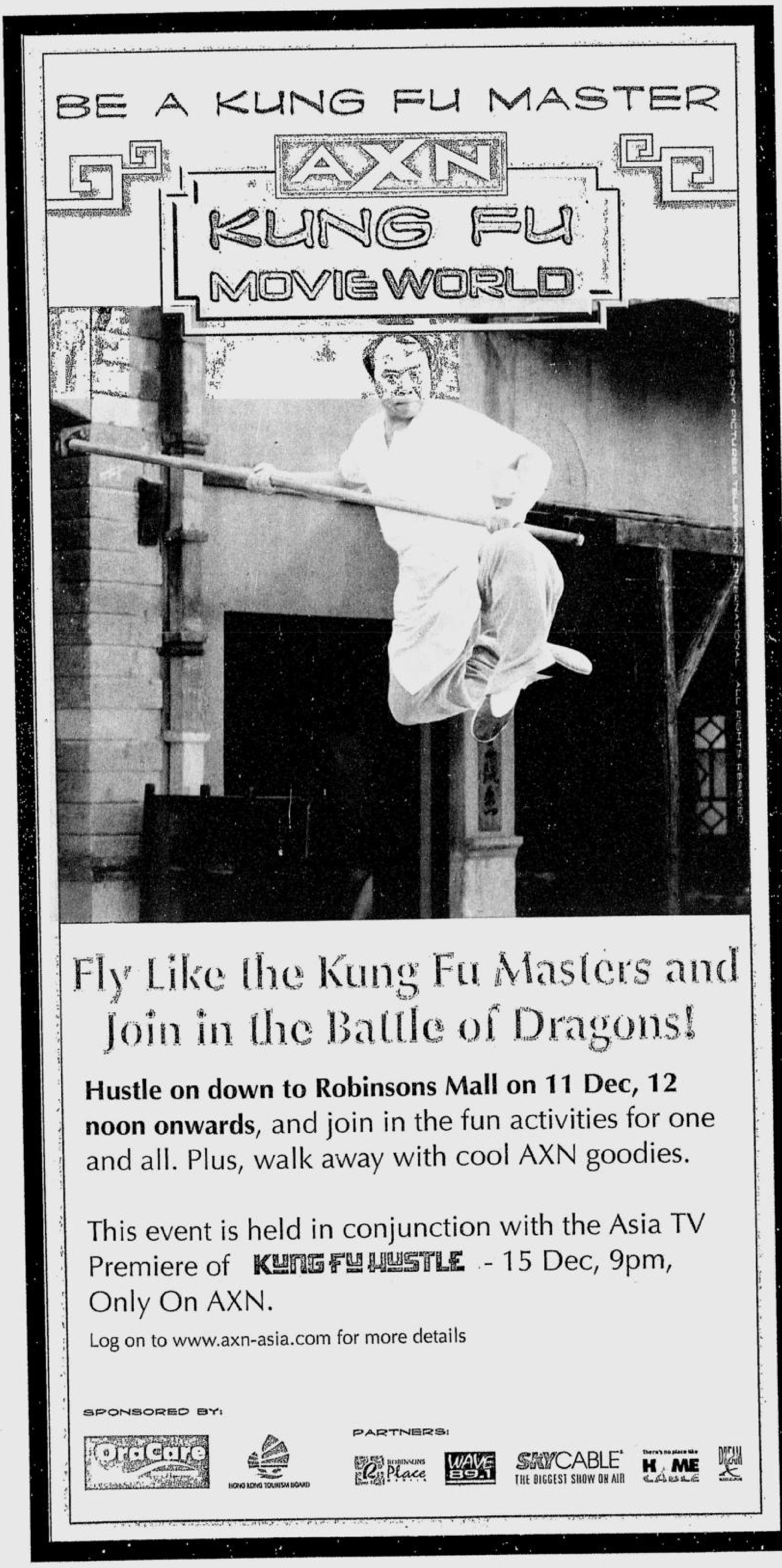
The only fly in the electoral ointment is Oprah's lack of interest in running for president. But, it's still early days in the political process, so Oprah's backers hope that she can still be persuaded to "make the historic improbability an actuality"—for the sake of all the women and members of minorities out there, who have heretofore been kept away from the nation's top electoral post.

Important

Is that important enough for Winfrey to shake up her golden life and thrust herself into the hungry maw of politics? The "queenmakers" think so.

But, would Winfrey make a good president? A supporter ripostes: Yes—at least as good as George Bush! —Touché.





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Misconceptions

CHRISTMAS IS NOT WHAT MANY of us think it is. In fact, many people celebrate Christmas in exactly the opposite way from what it was intended for. Let's go over popular misconceptions.

1. Christmas is not about externals—home decor, Christmas tree, blinking lights, snowmen or reindeer.

Jesus was born in a manger without bright lights or snowmen. If we want to recreate that holy atmosphere, let us stick to the simple and humble, put his figure at the center, and focus on His importance. We should not be distracted by artificial decorations that have no inherent meaning or purpose. Bells, snowmen and reindeer don't contribute to our existence.

Invention

2. Christmas is not about Santa Claus—it is about Jesus Christ. Santa Claus is an invention, Jesus is real. The birthday of Jesus is most auspicious and holy. We call it Christmas, *not Clausmas*. We observe the birth of Christ, *not* the coming down of an imaginary fat man through a chimney.

3. Christmas is not about gifts, it's

Managin

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

THE SSPE CHILDREN CARE FOUNDATION has conducted a study on the alarming situation of measles over the years. Measles immunization coverage by the Department of Health is only 80 to 90 percent.

The Philippine General Hospital, according to Dr. Aida Mendoza-Salonga of UP-PGH's pediatrics department, monitored over 100 cases of SSPE. Most children afflicted with it developed measles when they were two years old or younger. At that age, their immune systems were not yet fully developed.

Virus

Over the years, the virus multiplies and destroys the nervous system. Most patients belong to the low social economic strata. There are more males than females.

The patient appears to lose appetite, energy and interest in school work, He loses his comprehension skills and the power of speech. He forgets to go home after school, and his legs stiffen until he can no longer stand. Dementia and blindness may occur—or death!

In July 2001, we assisted 15-year-

Drama and comedy in Diaz,

On the other hand, Rose may have found true love in Simon (Mark Feuerstein), but she has a hard time moving on without her sister by her side. Is love strong enough to see them through life's ceaseless challenges?

Diaz holds her own against the magnificent Collette. And the consistently delightful MacLaine—who underplays a role that has "big acting" written all over it—delivers a performance worthy of at least an Oscar nomination.

But, it is Hanson's vision that holds the film together: It's easy to imagine the production succumbing to melodramatic flourishes without the Aussie director at its helm. (Case in point: "Beaches.") He seamlessly meshes the film's light-hearted comic scenes with its heartrending dramatic moments.

In one scene, Maggie shares with Ella her agony at the death of her mentally unstable mother, and her regret for the long separation with her grandmother: "If you were there, things would have been painful still, but it would have been less lonely."

But in the end, as aptly encapsulated in E.E. Cummings' poem, "I Carry Your Heart with Me," she realizes that the power of love transcends distance and human differences:

"I carry your heart with me (I carry it in my heart). I am never without it. Anywhere I go, you go, my dear/ Here is the deepest secret nobody knows. Here is the root of the root, and the bud of the bud, and the sky of the sky, of a tree called life, which grows higher than soul can hope, or mind can hide, and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart: I carry your heart—I carry it in my heart."

"The Fog"

D: Rupert Wainwright
S: Tom Welling, Maggie Grace

One hundred years after the four founding fathers of the bustling harbor community of Oregon's Antonio Island deceived and scorched to death a boatload of wealthy lepers, vengeful spirits return to settle the score against the descendants (Tom Welling, Maggie Grace, etc.) of the treacherous quartet. Now, the sins of the past encroach into the idyllic bounty of the present.

The film's premise has exciting narrative possibilities (the horror of discrimination, greed, etc.). Problem is, Rupert Wainwright doesn't have John Carpenter's storytelling savvy, and his remake of the latter's 1980 horror classic is as flat as it is pretentious.

Worse, scenes proceed at snail's pace, and brim with dimwitted characters who, incomprehensibly, can't outpace the flat-footed ghouls.

Ho-hum.

"An Unfinished Life"

D: Lasse Hallstrom
S: Robert Redford, Jennifer Lopez, Morgan Freeman, Josh Lucas

Einar Gilkyson (Robert Redford), who still mourns the death of his only son 12 years after a car accident, lives in a craggy, run-

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‘Chillout Project’ fuses jazz, soul and funk

CASSANDRA Wilson contributes a track to Ramos’ compilation, “Sisters of the Sun.”

By Noelani Torre

EIGHT YEARS ago, Anton Ramos launched a radio program, “The Chillout Project,” on 99.5 RT. Showcasing electronic and down-tempo music—not exactly popular genres in this country—it stood out against the more generic shows on the air. In fact, it garnered enough attention to pave the way for the release of a self-titled compilation album three years later.

“The Chillout Project” (2000) was only the beginning. Since then, there have been more such compilation albums, one for each year—“The Lounge Story” (2001), “The Chillout Project: A Soundtrack to Modern City Life” (2002), “The Chillout Project: House Sessions” (2003), “The Chilloout Project: House Sessions 2” (2004)—and for this year alone, “Acid Jazz” “Sisters of the Sun” and “House Sessions 3.”

Impressive

To quote its own PR, “It has become the largest selling electronica/dance compilation series in the country today.”

It may not be that great a feat when you think about it, but it’s nonetheless impressive, especially when you consider the fact that not many listeners are that familiar with house, down tempo, trip-hop and trance.

If you listen to a “Chillout Project” album, however, you’ll realize why the series has been such a hit, even for those who don’t know how to differentiate between ambient house and ghetto house. It makes for great listening, simply enough—particularly after a long, smoky and gnarly day in the metro.

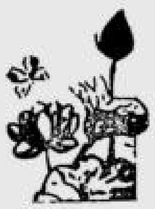
“Acid Jazz” features music by artists like Lisa Nilsson, Snowboy, Stanley Clarke, Richard Darbyshire, and Level 42. (FYI: Acid jazz is a jazz fusion genre with soul and funk elements, and it’s also called groove jazz because it’s, well, groovy.)

Pivotal

This album “took more than 10 years to make” since Ramos had an Acid Jazz show even before “The Chillout Project,” and this was “pivotal in the development of the musical roots of chillout music.”

“Sisters of the Sun,” as its title indicates, features female vocalists and down-tempo music. It features tracks by artists like Mandalay, Dzihan and Kamien, and Cassandra Wilson. It sounds like the soundtrack to scenes of people relaxing on tropical beaches, proving once more that “The Chillout Project” is truly the authority on—well, chilling out!

about Christmas



LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

about honoring the birthday celebrant. We have our own birthdays to celebrate. Let’s not expect or demand gifts for ourselves during Jesus' birthday. Spare us from envelopes that seek donations.

4. Christmas isn’t about eating and getting fat. It’s not about drinking and getting drunk. Jesus showed by example how to live an austere and simple life. He used his body, mind and whole being in the service of the Supreme Father. He never engaged in gluttony or intoxication.

He’d be sad if we ruined our health on his birthday by gorging on meat, sweets, and wine, and end up with high blood pressure, high blood sugar levels and a cirrhotic liver. Christmas is not about serving our senses—it *is* about serving the Lord!

measles

GUTIERREZ. Saved by good Samaritans.

old Jon Jon Gutierrez, who recovered after IVIG (intravenous immunoglobulin) treatment. These days, Jon Jon’s weight has improved, and he can now do domestic chores.

Plight

There are other children at PGH who need assistance. Their plight is familiar: Only good samaritans can help them.

Donations may be deposited at the SSPE Children Care Foundation’s current account 0291-0369-96 and dollar savings account 0294-0271-49 at the Bank of Philippine Islands, Forbes Park Branch. Email sspefdn@yahoo.com.ph or call 899-1767 or 896-3208.

edford starrers

From page A2-1

down Wyoming ranch. Into his withdrawn, almost secluded existence comes estranged daughter-in-law, Jean (Jennifer Lopez), whom he blames for his son's death, and Griff (Becca Gardner), the granddaughter he didn't know he had. The mother and daughter duo is seeking refuge from the former's abusive boyfriend (Damian Lewis). But, some wounds take forever to heal.

Lasse Hallstrom's latest effort possesses the lyrical quality that characterizes most of the acclaimed Swedish director's oeuvre ("Chocolat," "The Shipping News,"

DRAMA/ A2-4

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As a result, the banking sector suddenly finds itself obligated to not just provide competitive products to customers, but speedy and accurate services as well. Self-service transactions, collectively known as e-banking are now made possible through the Internet, ATM machines, landline and mobile phones, POS terminals, kiosks, and call centers.

This development pushed GlobeQUEST, the corporate arm of Innove Communications, Inc., to expand its service lines and come up with a complete solution that will address the e-banking needs of the banking industry. Thus, the creation of a GlobeQUEST TouchPoint.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2878, Series of 2005.

WELLING. Plays doomed descendant in "The Fog."

Drama

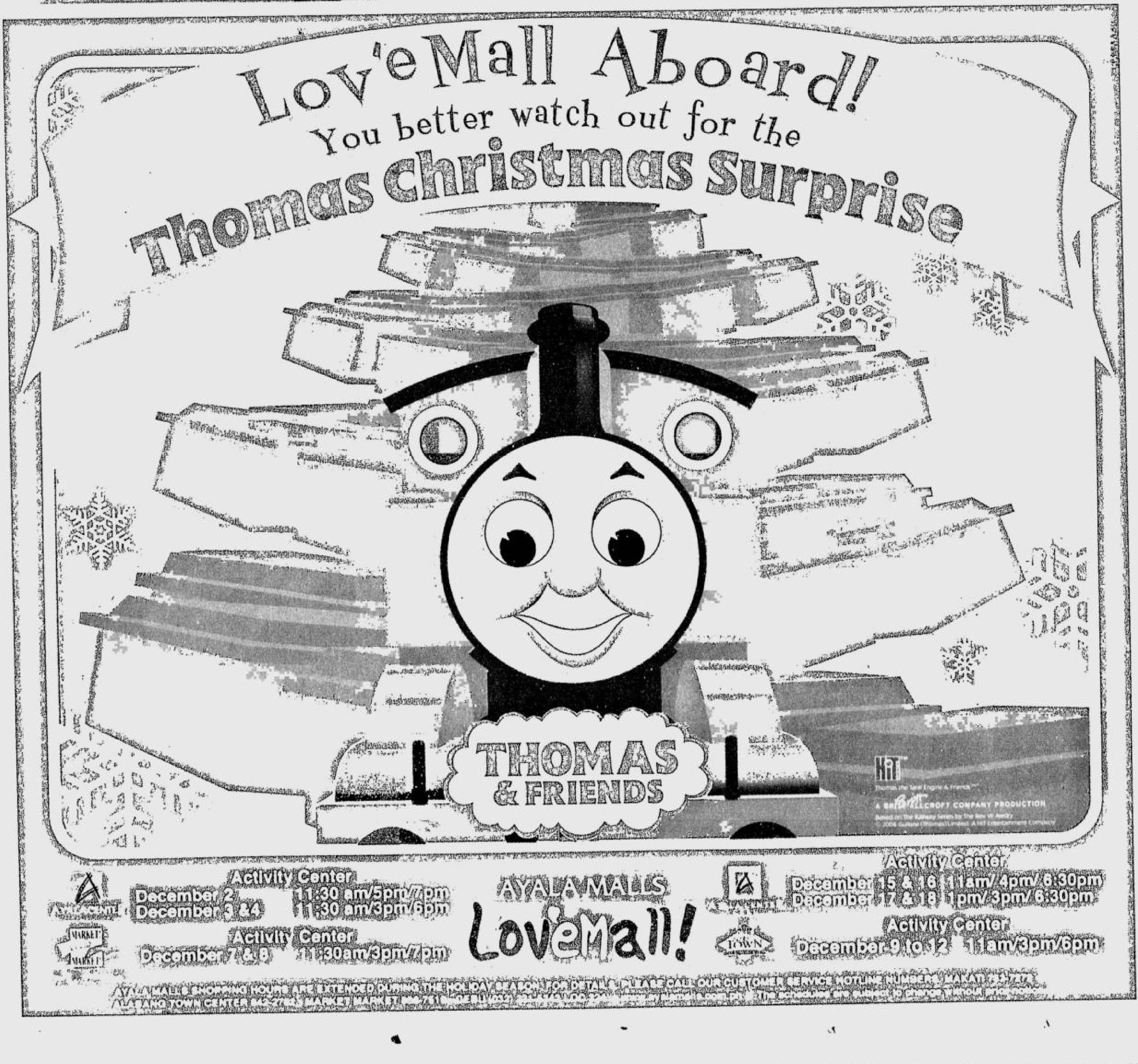
From page A2-3

"The Cider House Rules," "What's Eating Gilbert Grape?" and "My Life as a Dog").

The title refers to the protagonists' "frozen" state of existence as they confront grief and battle loneliness before they eventually find peace and acceptance.

The production tries its best not to succumb to maudlin sentimentality by occasionally cutting up mawkish scenes even before the emotional gravity of the moment can sink in. Thus, some important scenes appear tepid and detached.

However, you can't find fault with the stirring emotional involvement Redford, Lopez, Morgan Freeman and Josh Lucas invest in their respective roles.



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SATURDAY Special

New women filmmakers are helping revive the industry

By Rica Arevalo

YAMAMOTO. Pursued her passion.

THESE PAST WEEKS, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN raving about three excellent films—"Ilusyon," "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" and "Big Time." All three have been graded A by the Cinema Evaluation Board (CEB).

These films come from young women filmmakers who are working their way up the show biz ladder. Ellen Ramos, the co-director of "Ilusyon," was our animation teacher at Mowelfund.

Michiko Yamamoto is the writer-producer of the award-winning box-office hit, "Maximo Oliveros" We met her at NUT's scriptwriting workshop at the Film Development Foundation. Monster Jimenez, writer and producer of "Big Time," was a classmate at De La Salle University.

Discrimination

Did they experience discrimination in filmmaking? Michiko shares, "When I was starting out, I didn't think of this business as a male-dominated industry. I knew that it was hard to get in, but I didn't let that deter me. I discovered and pursued my passion. It helped that, early on, I knew who I was and what I wanted to do. Later on, I also discovered my limitations, so it was easier to choose a subject to write about."

For her part, Ellen went through a number of "initiations" in filmmaking—from doing sets, props and "guerilla" camera work to hiking with equipment in far-flung areas. But, she is quite happy to let the men do the manual labor. "In 'Ilusyon,' I remember reminding my co-director (Paolo Villaluna) that we were not making a bold film. The attack should be sensual," she relates.

Monster adds, "Women offer a sensibility unique to our gender. We are good at producing intensely personal movies."

Ellen shares, "Whenever I have speaking engagements in schools, I notice that there are always more girls than boys in the audience—but I find it ironic to find few women in film productions. Filmmaking is unglamorous, demanding and unpredictable, but when you look into the camera, time stops—and you don't hear your biological clock ticking! The more experiences you have as a woman, the better your films will be."

Monster beams, "I worked on 'Big Time' for more than a year. Despite setbacks, I still think that making movies is the most fun thing to do in the world! Studios, even art patrons, are now willing to produce unconventional stories—and *that's* great news for everyone!"

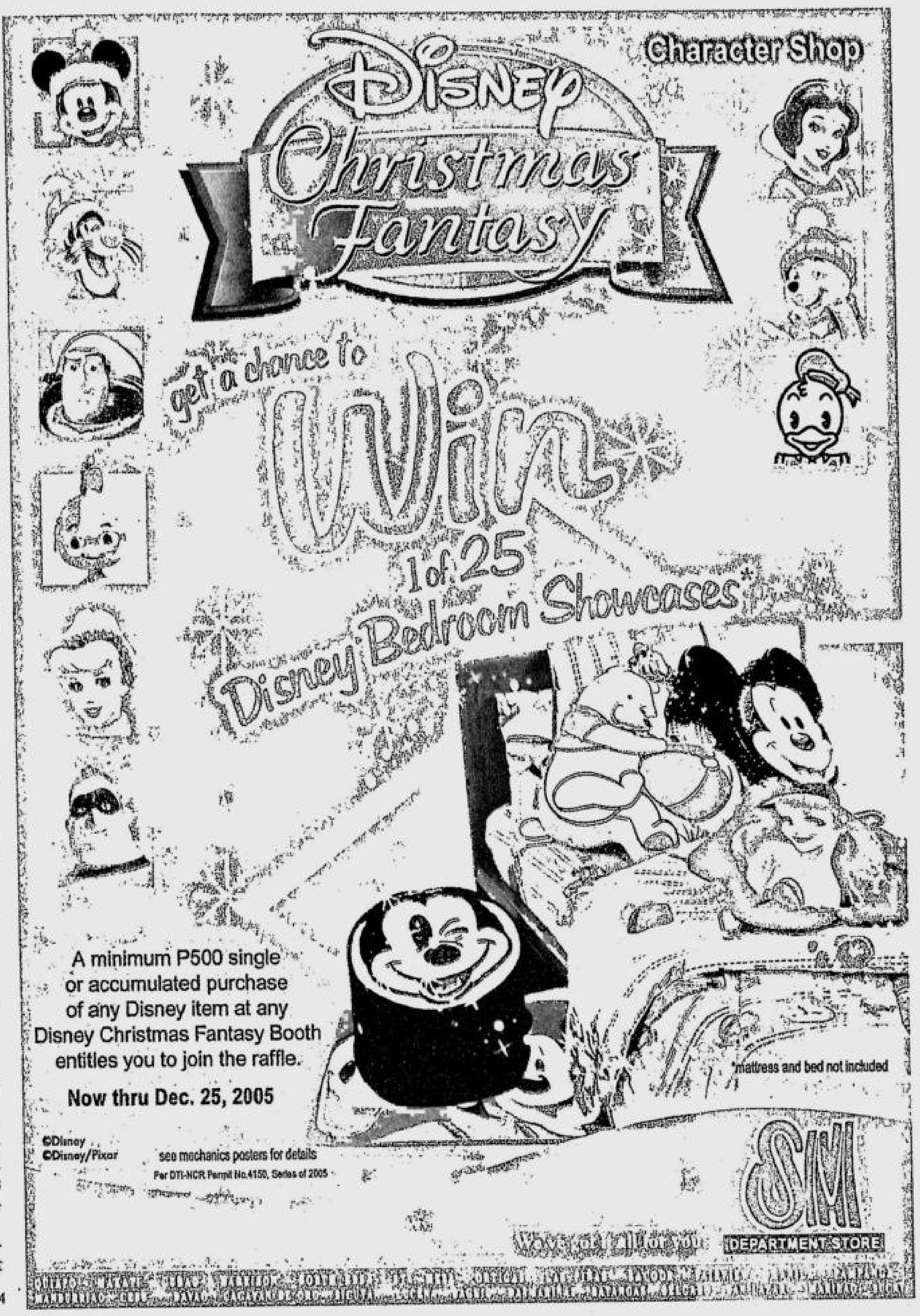
Huge gamble

Arkeofilms and UFO Pictures took a huge gamble when they decided to self-distribute their films. The box-office and critical success of "Ang Pagdadalaga..." has pushed the shy Michiko further into the limelight.

She shares, "When I was introduced onstage at the premiere night, I wanted to disappear! I still don't do TV interviews, and I'm glad that my producer respects that. As much as possible, I stay away from the limelight."

"Big Time" will be shown in SM cineplexes on Jan. 11. "We are scared and excited at

NEW/ A3-4



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75	USA
76	Venezuela
77	Vietnam

New motion pictures generate unusual interest

By Nestor U. Torre

PHOENIX AND WITHERSPOON. Portray Johnny and June Carter Cash in "Walk the Line."

JOAQUIN PHOENIX AND REESE WITHERspoon play challenging roles in their new film, "Walk the Line," that could make them very happy indeed, come awards time next year.

That's because they play Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash, popular singing icons who've led complex, tempestuous lives. Their story involves drugs and other daunting demons that test their character and resolve.

Even better, Phoenix and Witherspoon do their own singing in "Walk the Line." No wonder they're generating Oscar buzz!

Performance

Another movie that is eliciting the interest of Academy Award pundits is, of all things, the new "King Kong." That's because the fantasy-action film is directed by Peter Jackson, of "Lord of the Rings" fame. Also being Oscar-buzzed about is the performance of Naomi Watts in the female lead role originally essayed by Fay Wray.

Fans of Robert Redford are delighted to hear that US films' former Golden Boy is starring is a new film, "An Unfinished Life," with Jennifer Lòpez and Morgan Freeman.

CRAIG. Takes over James Bond role in "Casino Royale."

But, if Redford's loyal followers expect him to be as frisky as he was in "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," they've got another think coming. It's been decades since that sunny starrer, after all, and Redford has been playing it more mature and introspective of late, as befits the weight of years on his thespic shoulders.

In "An Unfinished Life," in fact, he even plays it bitter, as he portrays the patriarch of a dysfunctional family. He and his daughter-in-law (Lopez) haven't seen each other since the death of his only son 11 years ago—partly because he blames her for the accident.

Down on her luck, she returns to his ranch with her young daughter. He's pleasantly surprised to belatedly learn that he's a grandfather, but he remains distant. It's only after he's persistently goaded by his lifelong friend (Freeman) that he opens up, and opts to forgive and love again.

Latest Bond film

Interesting in a different sort of way is the latest James Bond film, "Casino Royale," because it stars a new superspy in the person of the relatively unknown Daniel Craig.

Some established stars have been angling for the role, but Craig won out because of his combination of fine acting skills, good looks and physical agility.

Craig is also a unique choice because of his light hair coloring—he's a blond Bond. Should that be a big deal? Film people who believe in Craig's capabilities think not.

In any case, that adds to the new James Bond's entirely different appeal, which could add more zing to the durable film franchise, which has been in active production since 1962.

Wild ride . . .

From page A3-3

than this."

That's not a particularly positive estimation, but it does give us the history for the title of Shane Black's action/comedy caper, "Kiss Kiss Bang Bang."

Screenwriter of the wildly successful "Lethal Weapon" series, Black makes a grand entry with this high-octane directorial debut starring Robert Downey Jr. and Val Kilmer.

Pulp fiction

True to its title, the film comes fully equipped with bangs and kisses. It's all the clichés you've come to expect from *noir* and pulp fiction, but without the condemnation *a la* Kael. Black looks at dames, private eyes, and serpentine plot twists with tongue firmly in cheek and elbow ever ready to dig into your ribs.

"Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang" is a crazed, offbeat murder mystery that will leave you gasping for breath—one, because it goes by at a truly frantic pace and, two, because it'll leave you in stitches. This self-referential cleverness doesn't always work, however.

Downey Jr., who plays the bungling petty thief turned actor, Harry Lockhart, also serves as the narrator. He regularly interrupts the movie's flow to speak directly to the audience, and call our attention to the clichés and, as a consequence, to the movie's general cleverness.

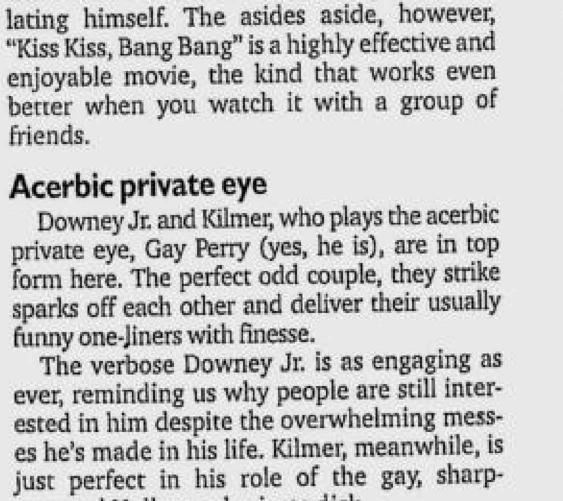
This is sometimes amusing, but it gets to be irritating for the most part. You're made to think that you're somewhat superfluous, what with the filmmaker too busy congratulating himself. The asides aside, however, "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang" is a highly effective and enjoyable movie, the kind that works even better when you watch it with a group of friends.

Acerbic private eye

Downey Jr. and Kilmer, who plays the acerbic private eye, Gay Perry (yes, he is), are in top form here. The perfect odd couple, they strike sparks off each other and deliver their usually funny one-liners with finesse.

The verbose Downey Jr. is as engaging as ever, reminding us why people are still interested in him despite the overwhelming messes he's made in his life. Kilmer, meanwhile, is just perfect in his role of the gay, sharp-tongued Hollywood private dick.

Michelle Monaghan's glowing performance is on par with Downey's and Kilmer's, and their trio will take you on a wild ride. Don't miss it!



KILMER. Plays a gay detective in Shane Black's action-comedy.

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2 AN UNFINISHED LIFE 06:00FS/06:30MF 08:20LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END
MEGAMALL
1 THE FOG 10:30FS/10:50MF/01:00/03:10/05:20 07:30/09:10LFS/09:40LMF/11:20END
CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE FOG 10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18 07:24/09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:10END
2 RESERVED
3 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE 10:20FS/10:30MF/01:15/04:00/06:45 09:23LFS/09:30LMF/12:10END
MANILA
6 MERRY CHRISTMAS 12:00MF/02:00/04:00/06:00 07:55LFS/08:00LMF/09:55END

METRO MANILA
SM MEGAMALL
1 THE FOG
2 THE MYTH
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 MERRY CHRISTMAS
6 IN HER SHOES
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
9 JOSE MARI CHAN: A Perfect Christmas
10 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
11 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12 THE MAN
SM CITY STA. MESA
1 THE FOG
2 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 BATANG PRO
5 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
6 IN HER SHOES
7 THE MAN
8 HARI NG SABLAY
9 CHICKEN LITTLE
SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE FOG
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE MAN
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
SM VALENZUELA NOW OPEN
1 THE FOG
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 MERRY CHRISTMAS
2 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
3 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 THE FOG
8 CHICKEN LITTLE
9 IN HER SHOES
10 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
11 THE MAN
12 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE FOG
2 CHICKEN LITTLE
3 IN HER SHOES
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
7 THE MAN
8 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 HARI NG SABLAY
SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 THE MAN
2 THE FOG
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 IN HER SHOES
SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 MARTIN NIEVERA: I Sing For You
2 THE FOG
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 IN HER SHOES
6 CHICKEN LITTLE
7 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
8 THE MAN
SM CITY MANILA
1 THE FOG
2 IN HER SHOES
3 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
5 THE MAN
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 MERRY CHRISTMAS
8 BLOODFIST 2050: THE LEGEND CONTINUES
9 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
10 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
11 HARI NG SABLAY
12 THE MYTH
SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE FOG
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4 APRIL SNOW
5 THE MYTH
6 HARI NG SABLAY
SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE FOG
2 THE MYTH
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MAN
SM MOLINO NOW OPEN
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
4 HARI NG SABLAY
SM CITY BACOOR
1 THE MAN
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 THE FOG
6 RESERVED
7 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
8 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
SM CITY MARILAO
1 CHICKEN LITTLE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE FOG
4 FOUR BROTHERS
SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE FOG
SM CITY LUCENA
1 THE MYTH
2 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
SM CITY BATANGAS
1 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE MYTH
4 CHICKEN LITTLE

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
SM CITY CEBU
1 THE FOG
2 RESERVED
3 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARI NG SABLAY
7 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
8 THE MYTH
SM CITY ILOILO
1 DOMINO
2 RESERVED
3 THE MYTH
4 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE
7 RESERVED
8 THE FOG
SM CITY DAVAO
1 DOMINO
2 CRY WOLF
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 THE MYTH
5 CHICKEN LITTLE
6 THE FOG
SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE MYTH
2 MY SASSY GIRL
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
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CHICKEN LITTLE GP 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00
THE FOG PG13 1:35, 3:45, 5:55, 8:05, 10:15
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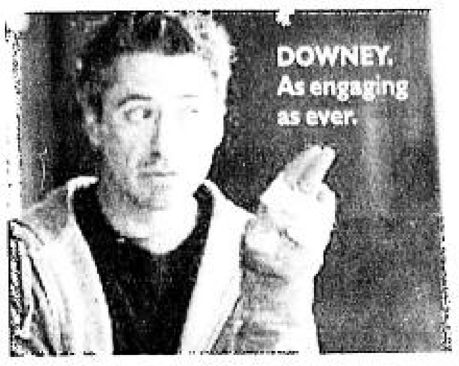
Wild ride with Downey and Kilmer

By Noelani Torre


DOWNEY. As engaging as ever.

FILM CRITIC PAULINE KAEL WAS FAMOUS for one particular assessment of movies in general. "The words 'Kiss Kiss Bang Bang,' which I saw on an Italian movie poster," she wrote, "are perhaps the briefest statement imaginable of the basic appeal of movies.

"This appeal is what attracts us, and ultimately what makes us despair when we begin to understand how seldom movies are more

WILD/ A3-2

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Café Al Fresco
December 31
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January 1
Special New Year's Day Brunch
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Special Holiday Treat: For every group minimum of four get a free bottle of house wine (red or white).

Tempura Misono
December 31
Special New Year's Eve Dinner Buffet
P1,200++ / P600++ children
January 1
Special New Year's Day Brunch Buffet
P1,100.00 / P550++ children
Special Treat: All meals served with one Green Iced Tea and for a group of four, get a complimentary bottle of Sake wine.

Lobby Party with Rhythm & Babes
December 31, 10:00 pm onwards
P1,000++ / person (consumable charge)
Includes party favors & champagne for toasting.

Banquets & Catering
Christmas Party Packages
We have prepared a holiday feast of Asian or Western menus or combination of both for sit-down or buffet parties. Outside catering also offered

Special Room Packages
Hyatt Holiday Getaway Package
P5,000 net per night
Validity: December 1-31, 2005
Inclusions: De Luxe room accommodation for 2 adults and 2 children (below 6 years old), Holiday Breakfast Buffet at Café al Fresco for 2 adults and 2 children (below 6 years old), Welcome drink in Calesa Bar for 2, Welcome Fruit Platter or Christmas Cookies, Free use of the swimming pool and Fitness Suite, Discount Card for Shoemart Harrison Plaza, 10%, discount on services from in-house Tango Beauty Salon, 10% discount on in-room massage and Hyatt Souvenir Item.

New Year's Room Package
P8,000.00 net per night for December 30 and 31 only
Validity: December 30-31, 2005
Inclusions:De Luxe room accommodation for 2 adults and 2 children (below 6 years old), New Year's eve dinner at Café Al Fresco for 2 adults and 2 children (below 6 years old), Calesa Bar Countdown Dance Party with the Rhythm and Babes includes: 2 standard drinks, platter of pica-pica, party hats, noise –makers, New Year's Day Brunch for 2 adults and 2 children, Welcome Fruit Platter or Christmas Cookies, Free use of the swimming pool, Access to the Fitness Suite, Discount Card for Shoemart Harrison Plaza, 10% discount on services from in-house Tango Beauty Salon, 10% discount on in-room massage and Hyatt Souvenir Item

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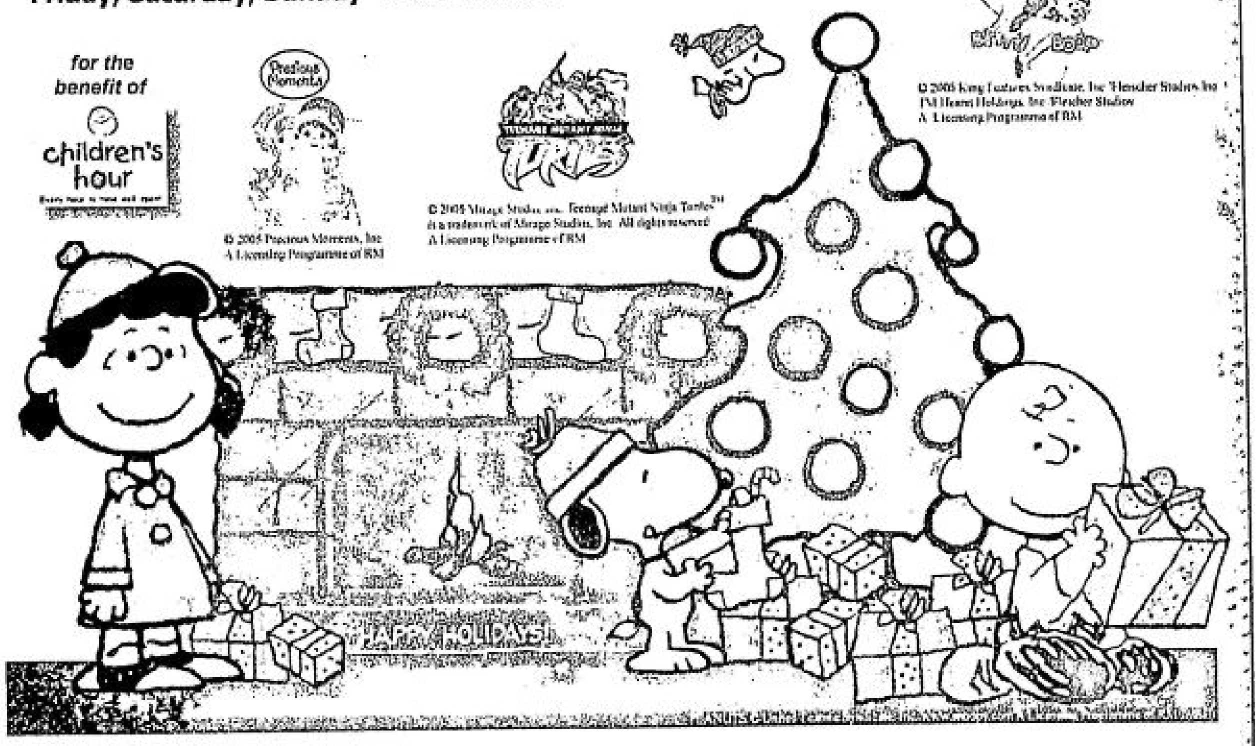
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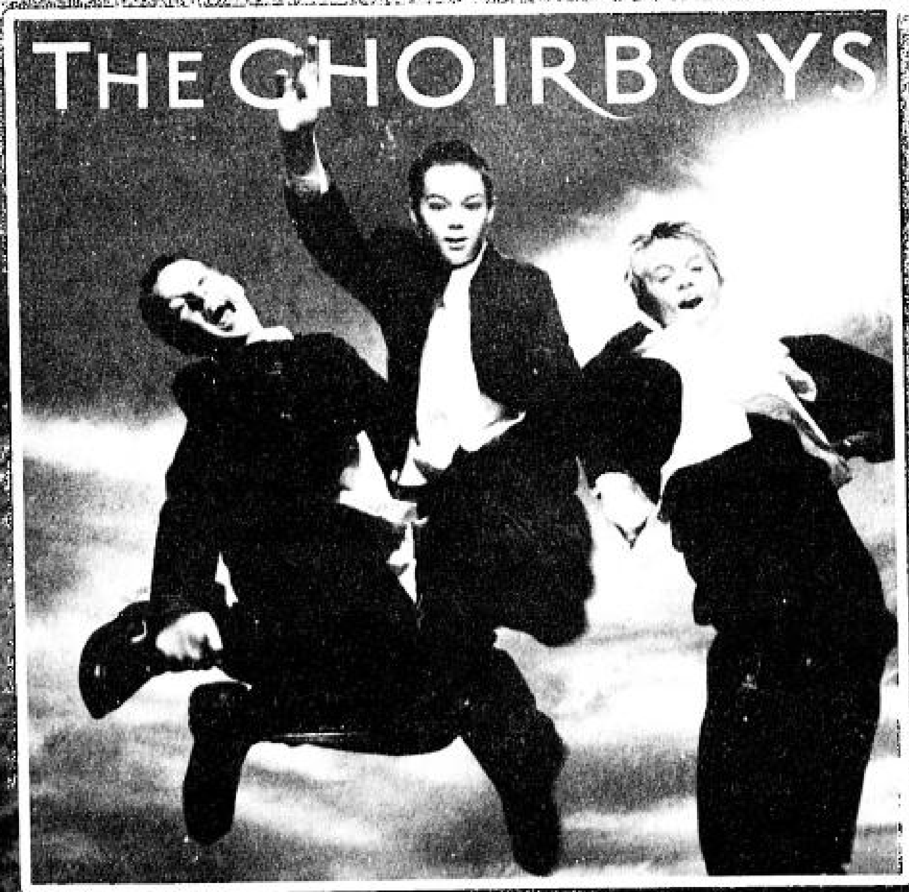

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Catching Tales

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'A Christmas Carol: The Musical' on Hallmark

MONTAGE

CHARLES DICKENS' classic Christmas story is magically transformed into a musical extravaganza in "A Christmas Carol: The Musical," the Hallmark Channel's must-see holiday treat, at 9 p.m. on Dec. 25.

The outstanding production was cited for best musical direction in the 2005 Emmy awards, and best sound editing in TV long form for music in the Golden Reel awards.

The presentation boasts of a score of 21 songs by Oscar and Grammy-winning composer Alan Menken, and stars Kelsey Grammer, Jennifer Love Hewitt, Jason Alexander, Brian Bedford and Geraldine Chaplin.

Nickelodeon's holiday specials

This month, the Nickelodeon Channel presents four special films in Movie Mania every Sunday, starting with "My Scene Goes to Hollywood" last Dec. 4. This is followed by magical mischief *via* the remote control in "The Channel Chasers" from the team of "Fairly Odd Parents."

Over at Ginger's house, the Foutleys will be beset by confusion and disaster as confrontation erupts just before the wedding in "As Told by Ginger: The Wedding Frame." And, roaming cows, a talkative principal and a teacher who encourages sleep in class rule in "Wayward School."

To ,vote for your favorite funnies, just hit nwww.nicksplat.com until Dec. 16. The Nick episodes with the highest votes will be aired all week before Christmas.

G-Box Amusement Center

At Robinsons Place Manila, the G-Box Amusement Center offers fun and entertainment for the family. The crowd favorite is the Gymnasium, a half-court basketball arena that can also be converted into a badminton court.

Simulator game machines include Time Crisis 3, Daytona USA 2, Victory Lap 2, and Battle Gear, and there are exciting rides like convoy and carousel, as well as carnival games or games of chance like Hoop It, Colorama and Happy Forest and Red Baron.

The amusement hub also offers a secured daycare facility, the Play Box Kiddie Activity Center, where kids can play and learn. And you can sing to your heart's content in the 22 videoke rooms, or at the Centerstage. Call 302-0102 or 302-0103.

Spettacolo Pirotecnico

Enchanted Kingdom's Spettacolo Pirotecnico, an award-winning and laser light spectacle, will unveil its Christmas Edition at 9 p.m. on Dec. 10. Other show dates are on Dec. 17, 25 and Jan. 1.

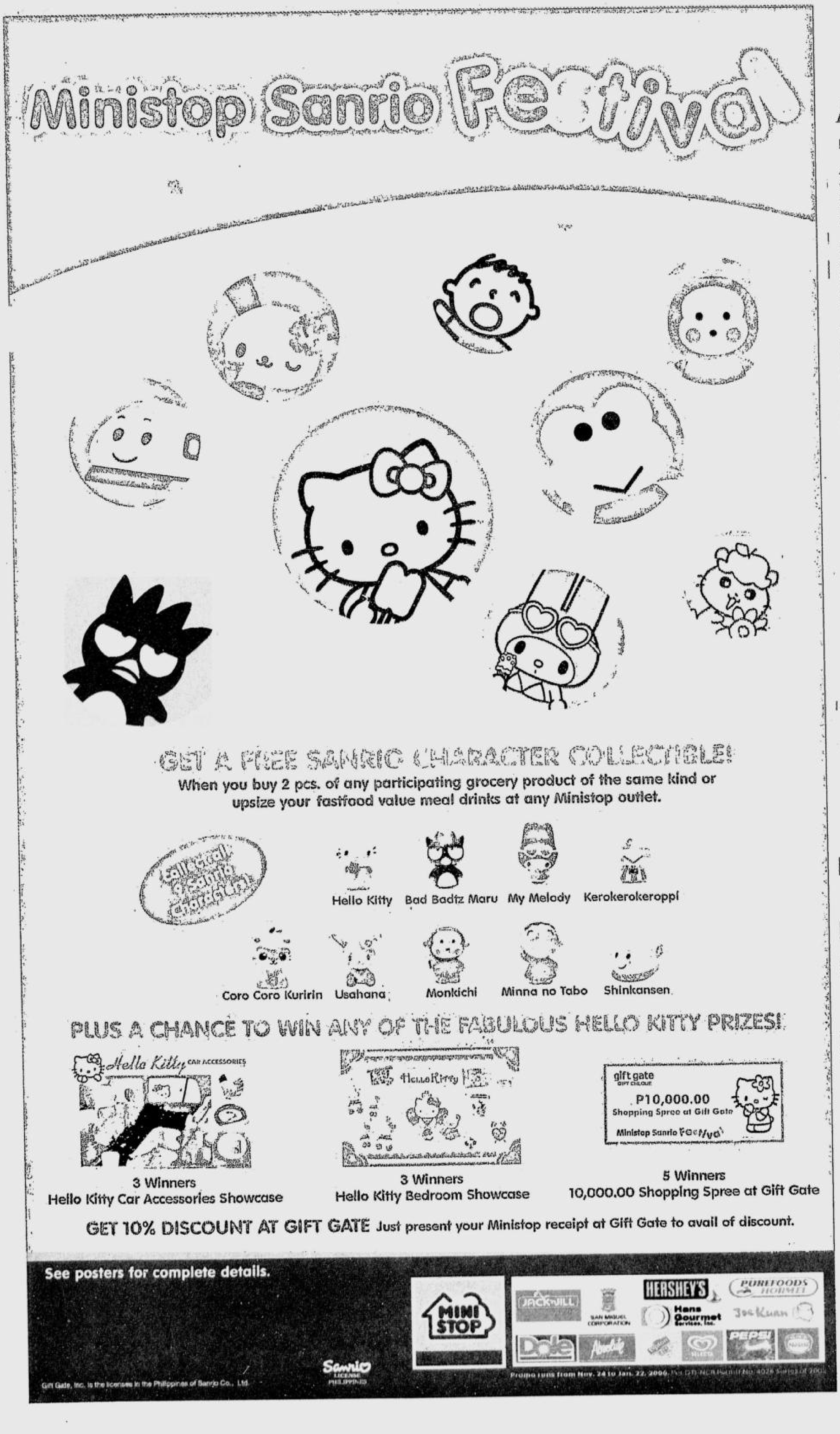
100-Book Spree

Every P1,000 single receipt purchase at Powerbooks Specialty Store entitles the customer to one coupon for a chance to win in the Christmas book bonanza raffle, Powerbooks 100-Book Spree.

The winner can select 100 books, worth up to P2,000 each. And five consolation prize winners will get to pick five titles each. Deadline for submission of entries is at 9 p.m. on Dec. 31. Powerbooks is at Greenbelt, Megamall, Alabang Town Center, Shangri-La and Robinsons Place Ermita.

Powerbooks also carries these delightful Chicken Little titles: "The Junior Novelization," "The Big Game," "A Little Golden Book," "Little Town Heroes," "A Read-Aloud Storybook," "Meet the Misfits" and "From Henhouse to Hollywood."

GRAMMER. Portrays Ebenezer Scrooge in Charles Dickens' classic.



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Film awards put in the proper context

By Nestor U. Torre

AWARDS ARE SUPPOSED TO REWARD exceptionally excellent work, but many recent film honors have gone to mediocre flicks—so, what's going on here?

Alas, the local awards syndrome has been pretty much co-opted by the wrong people, and thus misused for all the wrong reasons—moneymaking, ego-boosting, career-enhancing, power-proving, lover-pleasing, etc.

That's a real pity, since film people and movie buffs need solid and objective standards for quality, especially in these desultory show biz times.

Seductive blandishments

So, what happened? How come many awards have been compromised? In some cases, seductive blandishments of all sorts have come into play. In others, the judging system itself has been coopted. And, in yet other tilts, the judges are incompetent.

Whatever the relevant factor, film awards verdicts of late have generally left much to be desired. Thus, to protect themselves from being manipulated, movie buffs have become cynical, and some of them have opted not to believe movie awards, as a rule.

The same goes even for some of the awards that Filipino movies have won abroad. When those prize-winning films are shown here, viewers often go, "Duh—how in the world did these movies clinch those 'international' awards?!"

Some possible answers: Some 'international' festivals are partial to Filipino movies, so winning in them is really not that big a deal. Also, some festivals abroad find Asian gay sexy movies fascinating because, in their organizers' minds, these productions affirm gay westerners' jaded view of "sordid" lives in Asia.

Methods

In addition, some foreign festival jurors are clueless about the methods some filmmakers here employ to come up with their "winners."

For instance, a filmmaker once edited together his short films into a full-length production, gave it a new title, and submitted it to a local contest. The jurors were familiar with his short films, and the entry lost. Later, the compilation was submitted to a festival abroad—and won.

Finally, some local movies win in 'international' festivals that favor "arty" movies. So, the artsy movies are rejected here, but win there. Does that mean that they're great movies? No, just that they've met arty jurors' arty expectations.

New women . . .

From page A3-1

the prospect of having to show the movie to a bigger audience. But, the best news is that 'Ang Pagdadalaga…' is doing the same thing now—and it's doing great, box-office wise. People are lining up to see Maxi! Whether 'Big Time' does well or not, I am relieved because, finally, an independent movie is truly breaking through. And that makes it easier for all independent filmmakers," exclaims Monster.

Michiko has a positive outlook for the future. "It's easier if you're not in this business to compete with other filmmakers—just fulfill your passion, make films, and help the ailing industry recover. *Maganda kung lahat nagtutulungan, masaya ka sa* success *ng lahat*, just like the Cinemalaya spirit, we all helped one another throughout the whole experience!"

SATURDAY *Special*

Araceli Dans' retrospective is a feast for the eyes and spirit

By Nestor U. Torre

MANY OF THE CONTEMporaries of noted visual artist Araceli Limcaco Dans are no longer around or have already retired, but she's still at the service of her Muse, painting for many hours a day and coming up with one beautiful painting after another, each of which is highly prized by collectors.

Dans' abiding fealty to her art is an inspiration to many young artists, because it evinces a passion and seriousness of purpose that they would do well to emulate, if they too want to have long, creative and prolific careers in the arts.

Exhibit

These thoughts come to mind because we've just come from Dans' ongoing retrospective exhibit *cum* book launching at SM Megamall's Art Center. The exhibit, which runs only until Dec. 20, is a must-see artistic event, because it is a beautiful feast for the eyes and the spirit.

The coffee table book on Dans' artistic oeuvre turns out to be the perfect companion piece to her retrospective exhibit, because it more permanently celebrates the same artistic high points that make the exhibition such an inspiring viewing experience.

In fact, at our home, the book is prominently displayed, and opened to a different page a day, to properly showcase each beautifully-photographed artwork.

Many other art lovers share our admiration for Dans' painting. A writer in France's *Nice-Matin* newspaper described them as "beautiful! The watercolor paintings of Araceli Dans, who is from the Philippines, will leave even the insensitive with nostalgic thoughts of romance and a love for beautiful things.

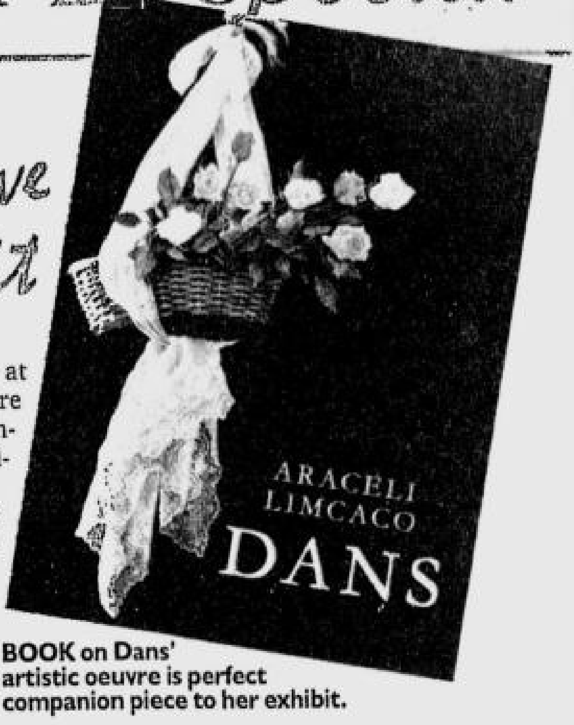
Hymn to nature

"Her exhibit at the Ville Fragonard is an outstanding hymn to nature against a unique background: The traditional lace embroidery from her Southeast Asian country, woven from pineapple fibers."

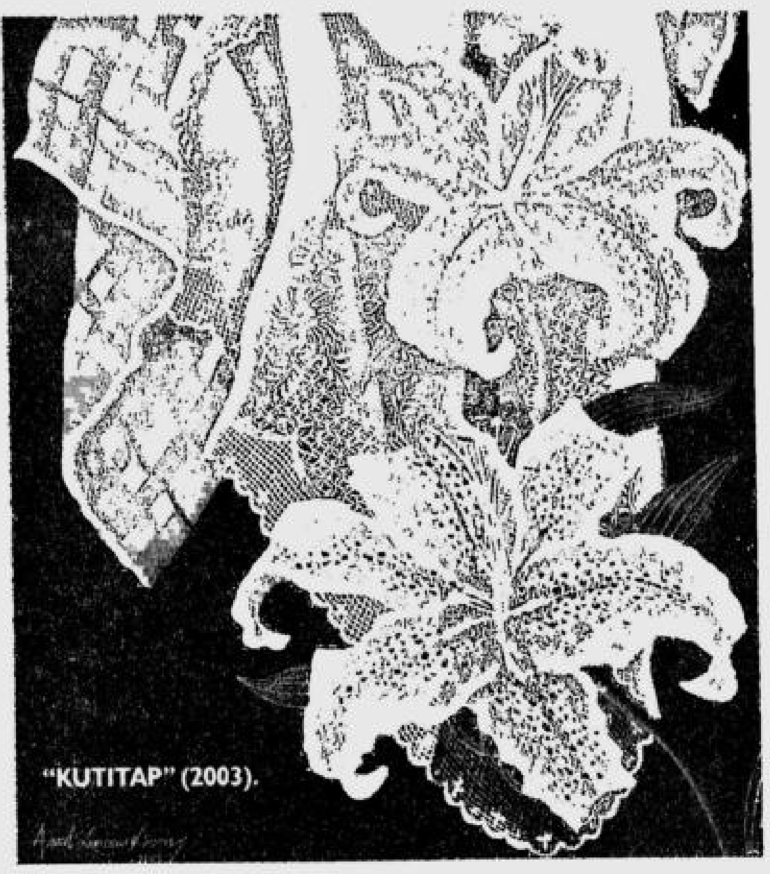
Art critic Alice C. Guillermo perceptively adds, "These paintings celebrate woman as artist/craftsperson and as homemaker; at the same time, they are still lifes that are not isolated images in themselves, but imply an entire social context with its values."

And the late National Artist Leonor Orosa Goquingco observed, "These paintings shimmer, breathe, shine, throb, pulsate, dance with life! They are perfection itself, the epitome of

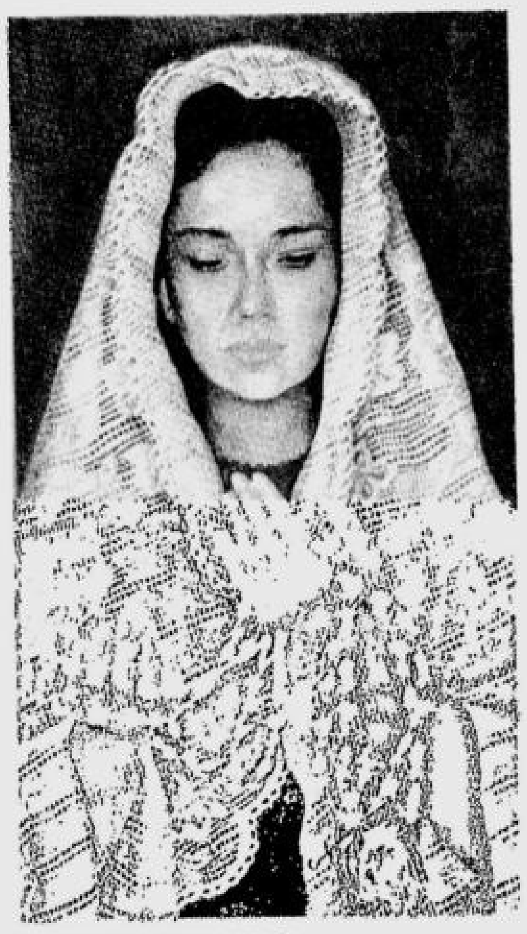
ARACELI/ A4-3



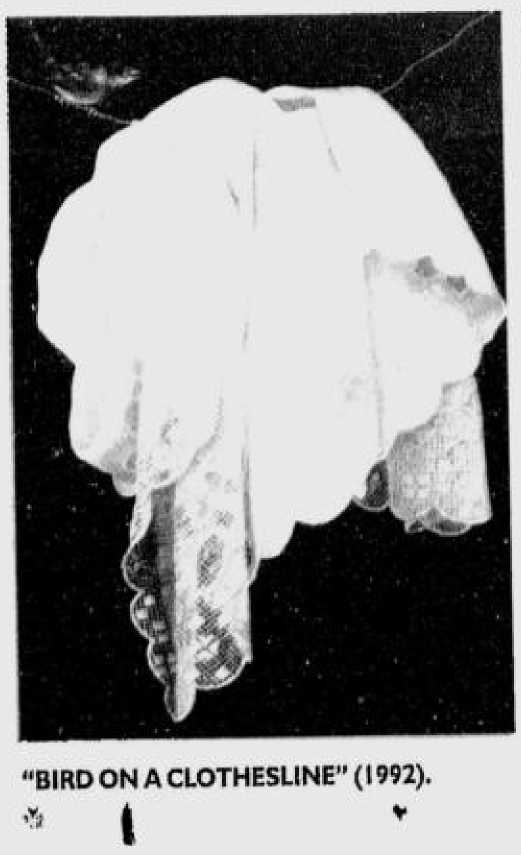
BOOK on Dans' artistic oeuvre is perfect companion piece to her exhibit.



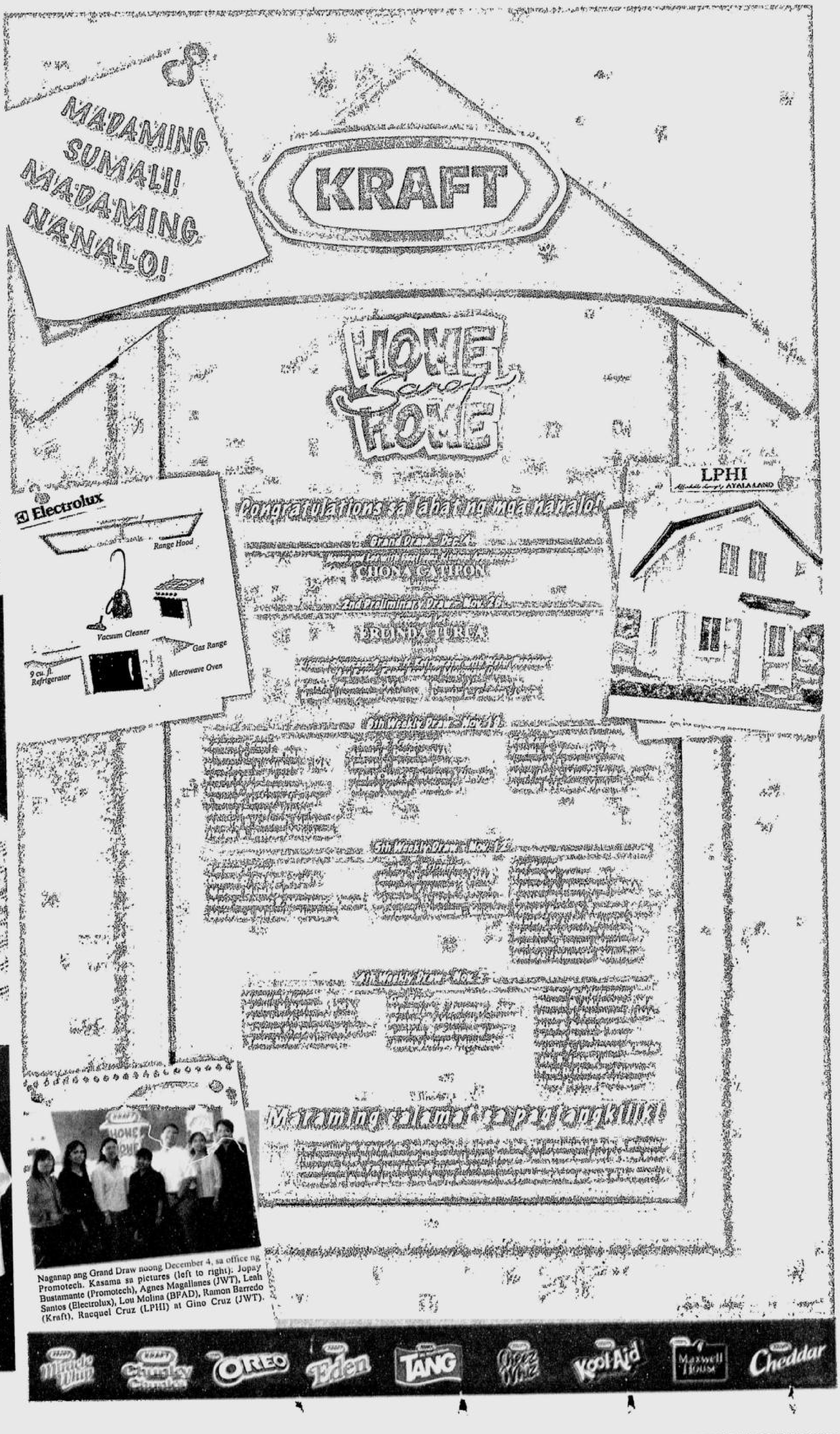
"KUTITAP" (2003).



"SAMPAGUITA"(1994.)



"BIRD ON A CLOTHESLINE" (1992).



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CHONA GATIRON

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5th Weekly Draw – Nov. 12

[illegible]

Maraming salamat sa pagtangkilik!

[illegible]

Naganap ang Grand Draw noong December 4, sa office ng Promotech. Kasama sa pictures (left to right): Jopay Bustamante (Promotech), Agnes Magallanes (JWT), Leah Santos (Electrolux), Lou Molina (BFAD), Ramon Barredo (Kraft), Racquel Cruz (LPHI) at Gino Cruz (JWT).

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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 HARRY POTTER 4 • THX
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

2 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6.00 8:00 10:00

3 THE FOG
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

4 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 IN HER SHOES
1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50

6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

7 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

8 BILOG / CIRCLES
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

9 THE MYTH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

10 PRIME
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 / 0124

1 THE FOG 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 CHICKEN LITTLE 12:00 1:35 3:10
THE MYTH 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
12:00 3:20 6:40 9.50

4 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 IN HER SHOES
1230 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 THE EXORCISM of EMILY ROSE
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9 50

METRO EAST 682-8193 / 682-8199

1 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
11":40 2:40 5:40 9:00

3 CHICKEN LITTLE
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00

4 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

5 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

6 IN HER SHOES
12:30 3.20 6:10 9:00

7 THE FOG
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

8 THE MYTH
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30

NOVALICHES 935-2517 / 935-3229-30

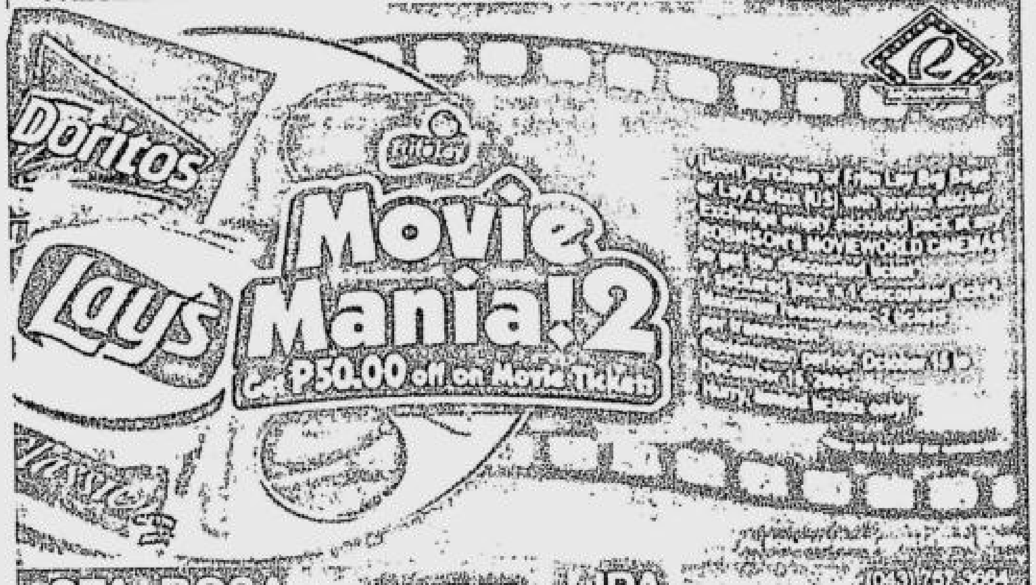
1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
3 IN HER SHOES
4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
5 THE FOG
6 CHICKEN LITTLE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2576

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
2 THE FOG
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 IN HER SHOES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4 HARI NG SABLAY
5 THE FOG

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4 HARI NG SABLAY
5 CHICKEN LITTLE

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4 THE FOG
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2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE

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2 HARI NG SABLAY
3 THE FOG
4 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
5 CHICKEN LITTLE

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2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 HARI NG SABLAY
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 CRY_WOLF
6 THE FOG

BACOLOD (034) [illegible] / (034) 441-0459

1 THE FOG
2 HARRY POTTER & the GOBLET of FIRE
3 CHICKEN LITTLE
4 THE MYTH
5 HARI NG SABLAY
6 PRIME

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1 THE FOG
2 DOMINO
3 THE MYTH
4 CHICKEN LITTLE
5 HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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AYALA Greenbelt

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G1	1 IN HER SHOES	2 THE FOG	3 ANG PAGDADALAGA NI MAXIMO OLIVEROS	4 AN UNFINISHED LIFE
G4	1 AN UNFINISHED LIFE	2 KISS KISS BANG BANG	3 THX THE FOG 1:30, 3 45, 6 00, 8 15, 10 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE	5 CHICKEN LITTLE	6 IN HER SHOES	7 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
GB1	1 IN HER SHOES 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 8:00	2 THE FOG 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00		
GB3	1 THX AN UNFINISHED LIFE 2 00, 4 20, 6 40, 9 00, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX IN HER SHOES 1 00, 3 35, 6 10, 8 45, 11 20 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 KISS KISS BANG BANG 1 05, 3 10, 5 15, 7 20, 9 25, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 JUST LIKE HEAVEN 1 30, 3 30, 5 30, 7 30, 9 30, 11 30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE FOG 2 00, 4 15, 6 30, 9 45, 11 00 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC	1 THX IN HER SHOES	2 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE		
	3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	4 IN HER SHOES	5 CHICKEN LITTLE	
ACC	1 THE FOG	2 A HISTORY OF VIOLENCE	3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN	4 CHICKEN LITTLE

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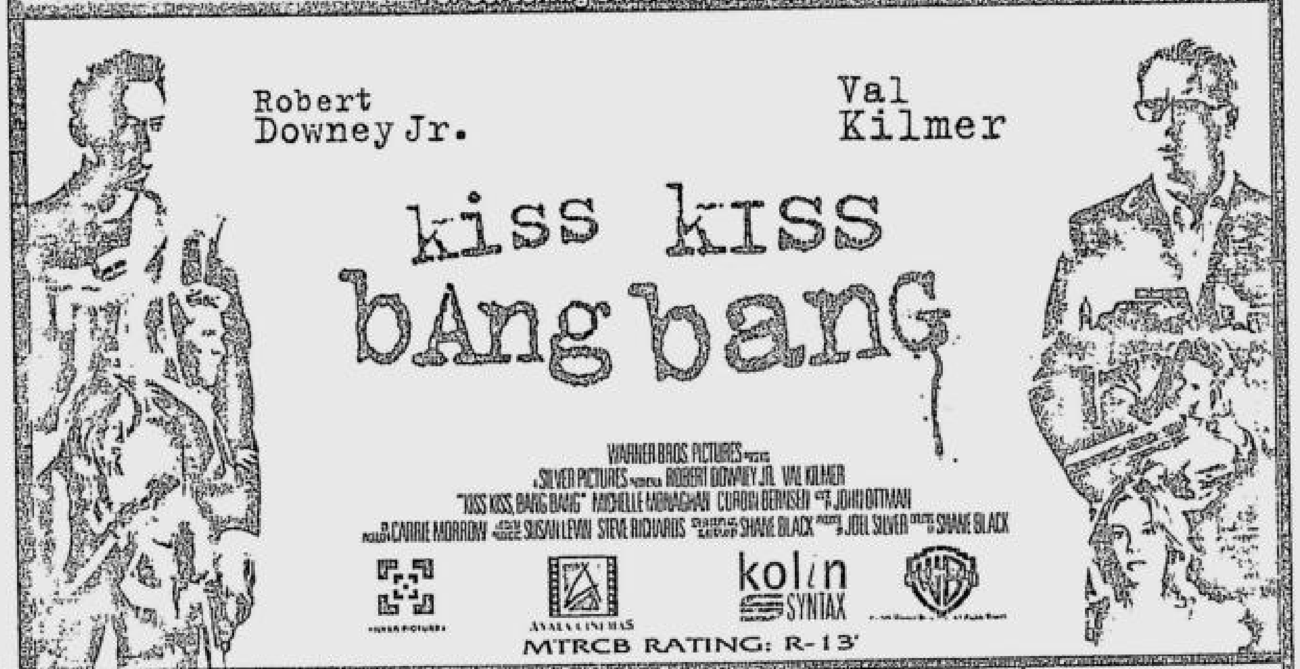
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Love and activism in Robert Redford's life and career

By Rito P. Asilo

FROM DIMITRI PANTILIANO OF Davao: "Robert Redford is my big-screen hero. Please tell me more about him and his upcoming projects?"

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

In Lasse Hallstrom's "An Unfinished Life," Robert Redford appears disheveled, gruff and unshaven. And yet, the camera can't hide the fact that the actor—wrinkles and all—is still one of the silver screen's most good-looking male stars. And Redford knows it! In fact, he once said, "I am perhaps the best-looking grandfather around—apart from Marlon Brando, of course!"

REDFORD. Magnetic appeal.

Bohemian

After graduating, he flew to Europe and lived a bohemian life—he earned his keep by painting. At 21, he fell in love with "consumer activist" Lola van Wagenen and married her within a year. The union, which bore four kids, lasted 27 years.

At 22, he stirred up a buzz on Broadway when he acted in Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park."

His cinematic debut came with the anti-war film, "War Hunt." He was paid a measly $500 then, but after the film, bigger parts started pouring in: In 1969's "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," he teamed up with Paul Newman. Then, he played Barbra Streisand's romantic lead in the box-office smash, "The Way We Were," which catapulted him to Hollywood's A-list. His team-up with Newman in "The Sting" won seven Oscars.

After winning an Oscar for his directorial debut in "Ordinary People," he got more choosy with roles. He devoted more time to political causes and environmentalism—and to the establishment of The Sundance Institute in Utah, a year-round workshop for promising filmmakers. He has since starred in movies like "Out of Africa," "Sneakers," "A River Runs Through It," "Indecent Proposal" and "Up Close and Personal."

Redford is largely perceived in Tinseltown as a faithful lover, but his magnetic appeal hasn't escaped his leading ladies.

In fact, during the promo blitz of Jane Fonda's comeback movie, "Monster-in-Law," she admitted that she fell in love with and harbored unrequited feelings for Redford when they made three movies ("The Chase," "Barefoot in the Park" and "The Electric Horseman") in the '60s and '70s.

Smitten

She explained: "There's something about Bob that's impossible not to fall in love with—I was smitten! I couldn't wait to get to work, wouldn't even get mad at his habitual one to two-hour tardiness! He never knew it, of course. Nothing ever happened between us, except that, we always had a good time together."

The 5'10" acting legend has been dating German painter Sibylle Szaggars since 1999. His environmental advocacy is reflected in movies like "A River Runs Through It," "The Milagro Beanfield War," "The Horse Whisperer" and "Incident at Oglala."

When "Havana" flopped, he mused about how aging has caught up with him, his clout and box-office popularity: "When that movie failed, everyone talked about aging—it took me by surprise, because all the while, I just assumed I would age naturally—and I did!"

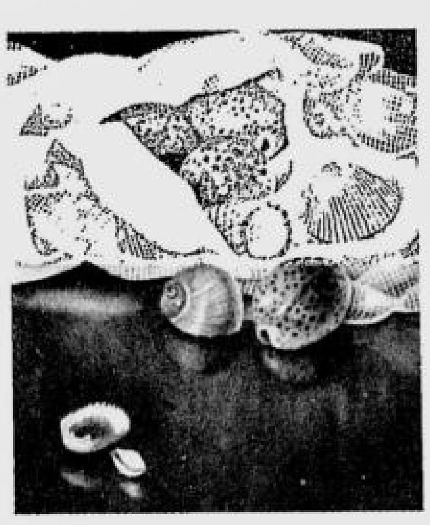
Adventure

His next project? Redford is set to star in and direct another environmental film, "Aloft," about two men on an adventure to track the international flight path of the North American peregrine falcon.

But, there's more buzz and anticipation in the animated flick he's attached to: He will be heard in Gary Winick's animated parable, "Charlotte's Web," with Julia Roberts (as the voice of "Charlotte"), Oprah Winfrey, Dakota Fanning, Kathy Bates and Steve Buscemi. Now that's something to look forward to!

Araceli Dans' retrospective . . .

From page A4-1



"DALA NG ALON I" (1987).

elegance. And they, and the painter as well, are destined for immortality."

What about the art lovers who have been collecting Dans' paintings through the years? Why have they become such avid collectors?

Timeless masterpiece

Gigi Dy Sy: "It is her ability to combine and express through visuals, simple beautiful subjects and her intricate attention to details that make each of Araceli Dans' paintings a timeless masterpiece."

Alden Castañeda: "After a long day's work, I always want to go home and end the day seeing something very pleasing, both rationally and emotionally. Cheloy Dans' *'calado'* paintings achieve this perfect balance."

At the exhibit's opening last Dec. 7, the SRO group of art buffs heaped their own praise on the acclaimed artist, and the book got its own share of raves.

Even better, many of the Dans paintings for sale at Gallerie Y nearby were snapped up by collectors on the exhibit's first day alone. Clearly, Cheloy's retrospective exhibit isn't the culmination of her career, but the start of a new and revitalized beginning!

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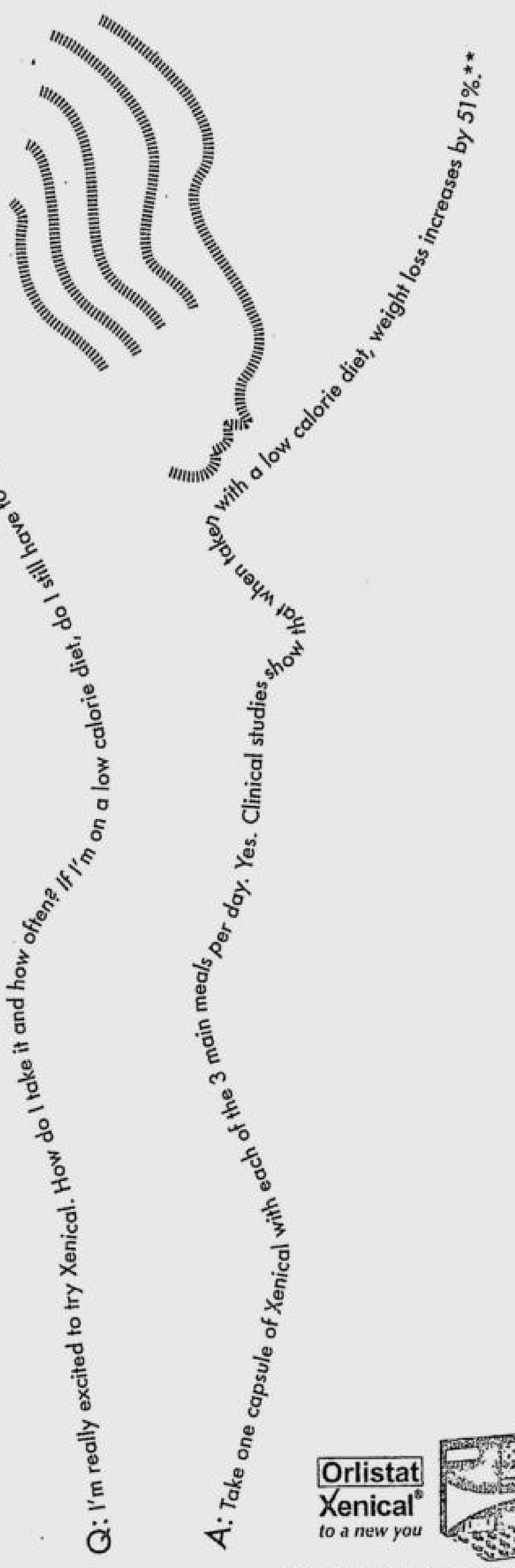

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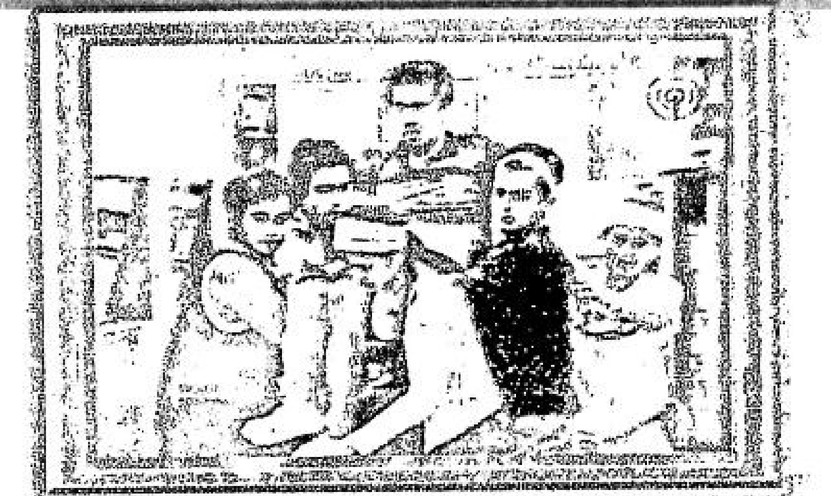

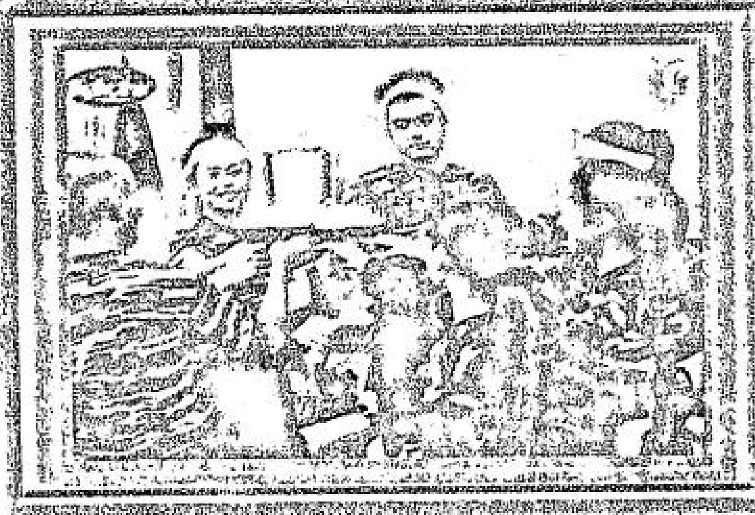

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'Maging Akin Muli' presents engaged view of religion

AGUSTIN. Plays a young deacon in Marilou Diaz-Abaya's latest movie.

By Nestor U. Torre

RELIGIOUS PRODUCTIONS ARE popular onstage, but TV and the movies are another ballgame entirely. There, the financial stakes are higher, and entertainment is king, so spiritual shows and films are generally felt to be too "serious" to attract most viewers.

On the other hand, TV and film have the biggest audiences, and it would be a great pity if they weren't exposed to inspiring, spiritual and potentially life-changing productions.

Seminarian

So, it's heartening to hear that a number of religious productions are finally making it to the big and small screens. The latest presentation along these lines is Marilou Diaz-Abaya's Advent TV movie, "Maging Akin Muli," starring Marvin Agustin as a young seminarian. The film will have an advanced screening at 7 p.m. on Dec. 12 at Gateway. Its TV telecast is on Dec. 18.

Conservative priest

In the film, Marvin's character, Jun Jun, has just been made a deacon, and is assigned for six months to the parish of Fr. Doy (Noel Trinidad), and old and conservative priest. As expected, the young deacon and the parish priest can't agree on many things, and their conflicts make life difficult for both of them.

They are particularly a problem for Jun Jun, because he needs Fr. Doy's recommendation before he becomes a priest. If the parish priest turns him down, he would have to undergo remedial re-training before he can be given another crack at ordination.

MAGING/ A5-2

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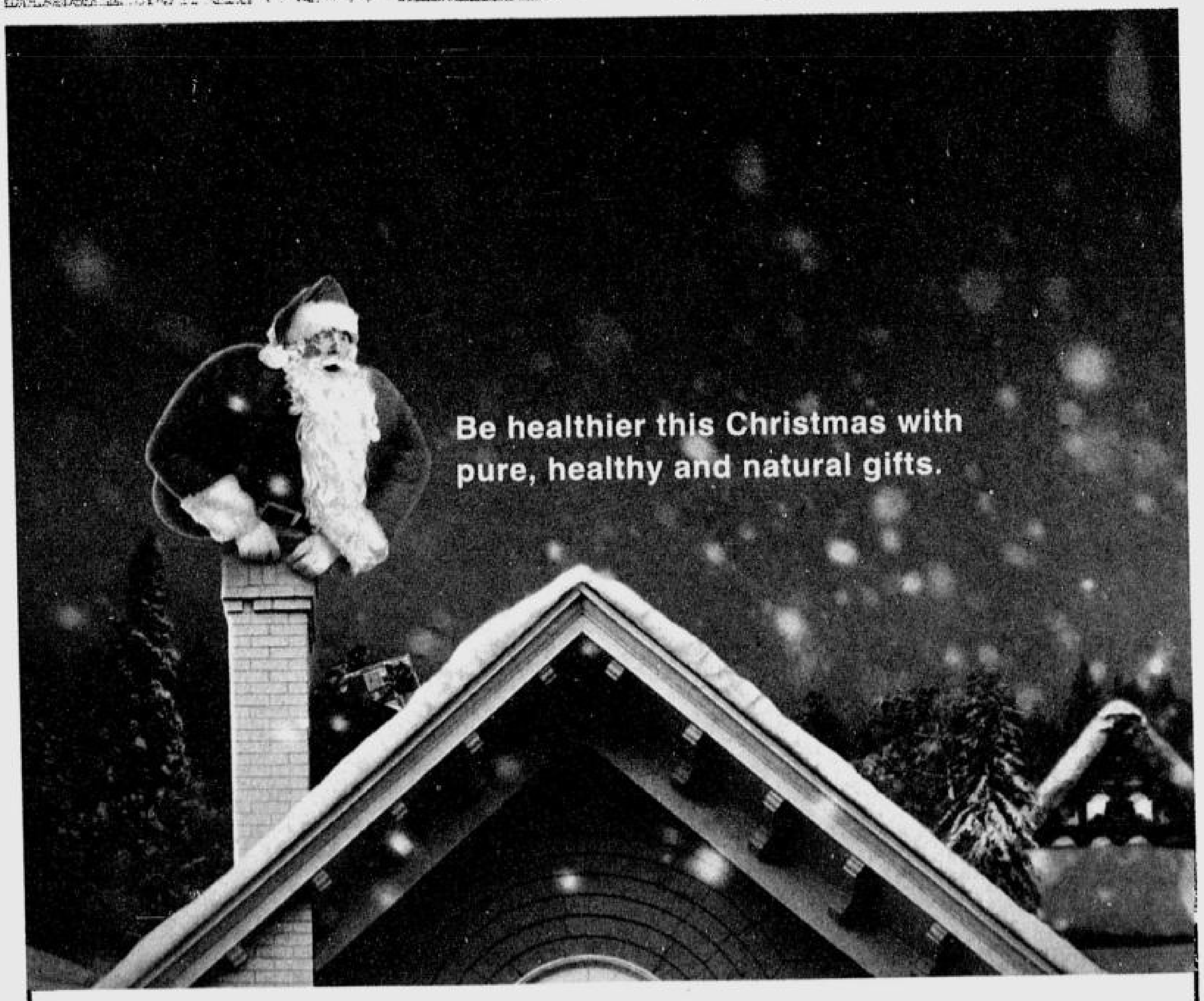
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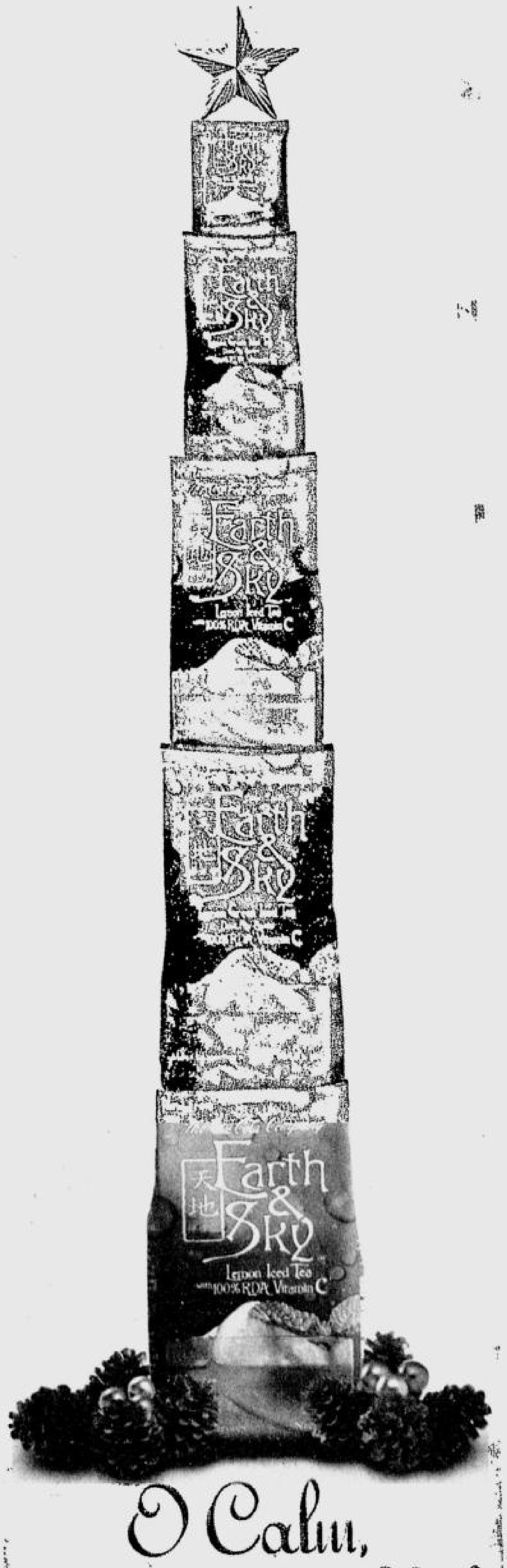

O Calm,
All Ye Faithful.

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Monsters on the movie screen

By Behn Cervantes

US FILMS EARNED MILLIONS from the misadventures of cute animals like Cheetah, Rin Tin Tin and Lassie. With their eyes on more profits, producers went on to create celluloid monsters we loved to hate.

However, many of them were written with sympathetic traits—so that, in the end, we also ended up loving them for their manifest vulnerability.

Exploitative

One successfully monstrous creation was born in 1933's "King Kong," about a giant primate that is brought to New York City by his exploitative captors. Naturally, the gargantuan ape is disoriented by the urban jungle. Amidst this cruelty is a kindly blonde, played by Fay Wray, whom Kong promptly becomes infatuated with. The giant primate vainly tries to escape his captors by climbing up the Empire State building, and there he meets his fate. It is the appeal of Beauty and the Beast, of course.

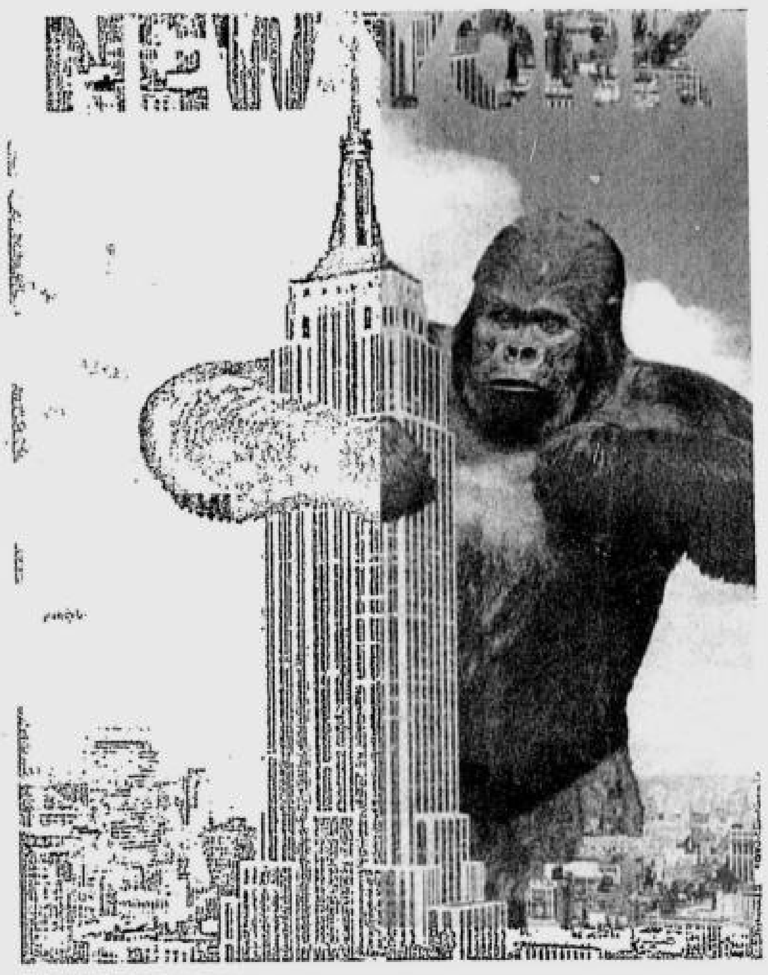
Frighteningly lovable

Because the gargantuan ape was so frighteningly lovable, the movie became a box-office hit. Another producer, in fact, bankrolled a successful remake in 1976.

To make Kong's ordeal more sympathetic, the giant ape exhibited more human qualities in the 1976 version. An even more modern adaptation by Peter Jackson will be released next week.

A spin-off of King Kong is "Mighty Joe Young" (1949). It' s the tale of yet another giant ape cruelly brought out of his natural habitat. The original version starred Terry Moore.

"Mighty Joe Young" was remade in 1998 with the gorgeous Charlize Theron as the anthropologist.



"KING KONG." Giant ape brought out of its natural habitat.

Of course, Hollywood knew that the movie-going public loved being frightened out of its wits. So, in 1954, they imported a monster from Japan named Goriza. She was later renamed Godzilla for international consumption. Ironically, Terry Moore (again!) starred in Hollywood's story of the giant reptile.

The film enjoyed box-office success with remakes in 1985 and 2000. The 1998 version was top-billed by Matthew Broderick. Godzilla also waged perennial battles with equally mammoth monsters in such films as "Godzilla vs. Gigan," "Godzilla vs. Mothra," "Godzilla vs. Monster Zero," and "Godzilla vs Mechagodzilla." *Phew*, that poor monster went through a lot!

Obviously, so did its loyal audience!

'Maging'

From page A5-1

Adding to Jun Jun's woes are the nagging presence of a former girlfriend, Dolly, and his concern for a convict who's been sentenced to death, which Fr. Doy doesn't share.

These and other volatile situations make life exceedingly difficult for both Jun Jun and Fr. Doy, and Marilou's film derives its topical dynamism and significance from this nose-to-nose confrontation between conservative and liberal-minded clerics.

Gossip

Topping everything are the parishioners themselves, and their propensity for gossip and for taking sides. Of course, most everything gets resolved before the final fade, but the way toward resolution is both instructive and empathetic.

More than anything else, the film is a valuable production because it presents an engaged, everyday view of religion. Thus, average viewers can easily relate to its characters and situations, and apply the lessons they learn from watching the film to their own parishes and spiritual lives.

Success

Let's hope that "Maging Akin Muli" is patronized by many people, so its success will motivate other producers and filmmakers in the near future.

We've been saying for a long time that there's a huge, untapped audience out there that's hungry for inspiring productions. Well, now is the time for engaged storytellers to give them what they so urgently want, and need.

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4 GOLD (DTS) UNFINISHED LIFE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE FOG
6 GOLD (SDDS) CHICKEN LITTLE
7 GOLD (DOLBY) JUST LIKE HEAVEN
8 (DOLBY) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
9 (DOLBY) THE MYTH
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Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
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2 ISLA ASUL
3 (DTS) EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
4 MAHAROT
5 HARI NG SABLAY

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2 FOUR BROTHERS
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4 (DTS) THE MYTH

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2 GHOST INSIDE
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4 HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET OF FIRE

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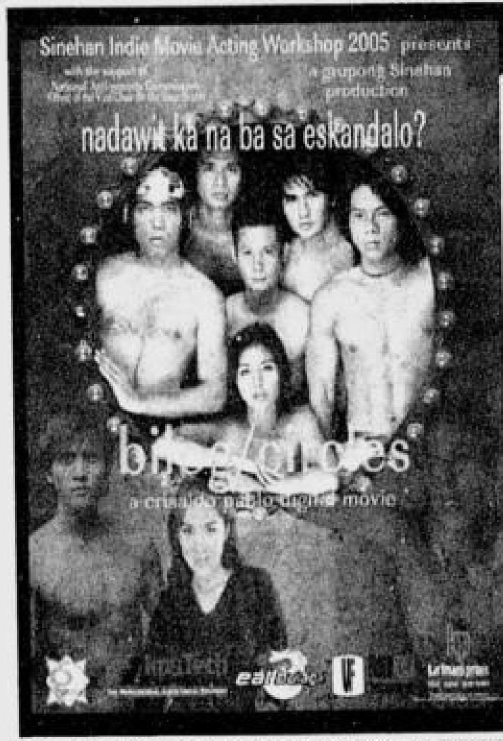
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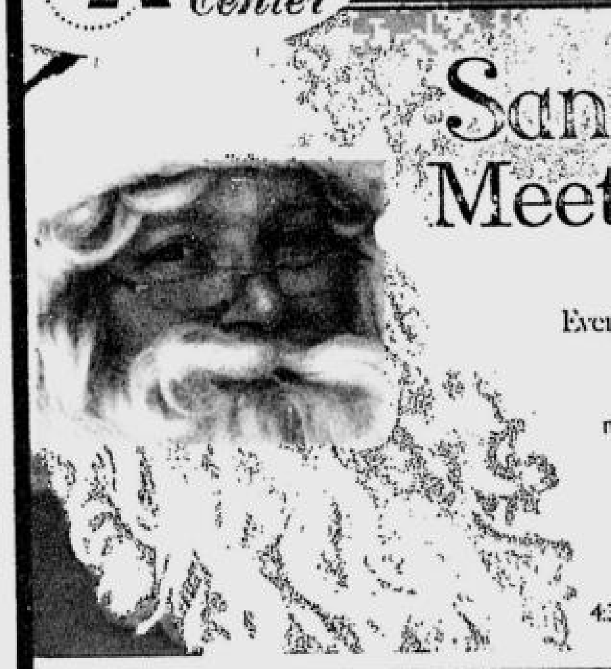
Araneta Center Leisure Guide

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THE FOG 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
KISNA 1:00 / 6:30
MERRY CHRISTMAS 4:10 / 9:40
UNFINISHED LIFE 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30
IN HER SHOES 1:05 / 3:55 / 6:45 / 9:35
GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00
CHICKEN LITTLE 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
JUST LIKE HEAVEN 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20
EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40
...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

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① THE FOG 12:10 R4 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
② HARI NG SABLAY 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
③ HARRY POTTER & THE GOBLET 12:00 R4 / 2:00 / 5:00 / 8:00
④ ...MAXIMO OLIVEROS 12:05 R3/ 1:45 / 3:55 / 6:05 / 8:15
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Anak TV Seal winners announced

By Nestor U. Torre

PARENTS AND EDUcators want to know: What are the most child-friendly shows on free TV? Well, it depends on whom you ask. Among the more reputable evaluators are the jurors for the Anak TV Seal citations, an annual evaluation conducted by the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television.

Last Dec. 9, at the Soka Gakkai building in Quezon City, the foundation honored 71 programs affirmed by its jurors as child-friendly shows. The people behind those shows should feel right proud, because they were voted on by more than 3,600 judges representing all walks of life, in 46 separate jury evaluations held all over the country.

Take a bow

In particular, ABC-5 should take a bow, because it topped all other channels, with 16 of its shows cited— "Animal X," "Art Is Kool," "Field Trip," "Gourmet Everyday," "Healthline," "How 'Bout My Place," "Island Flavors," "Kabataan News Network," "Mom in the City," "Mommy Academy," "The Practical Cook Show," "The Probe Documentaries," "Quiz Bee," "Trip Ko 'To," "Tutubi Patrol" and "Word Made Flesh."

Studio 23 has 11 seals for its programs— "Breakfast Supersize," "Gameplan," "Jimmy Neutron," "Math Tinik," "Petko," "Postman Pat," "Sineskwela," "Seventh Heaven," "Sports TV," "Team Explorer" and "Y Speak Live."

Awards

GMA netted nine awards—for "Art Angel," "At Your Service," "Dora the Explorer," "Happy Tales," "I-Witness," "Kapuso Mo—Jessica Soho," "Lovely Day," "Maynila" and "Wish Ko Lang."

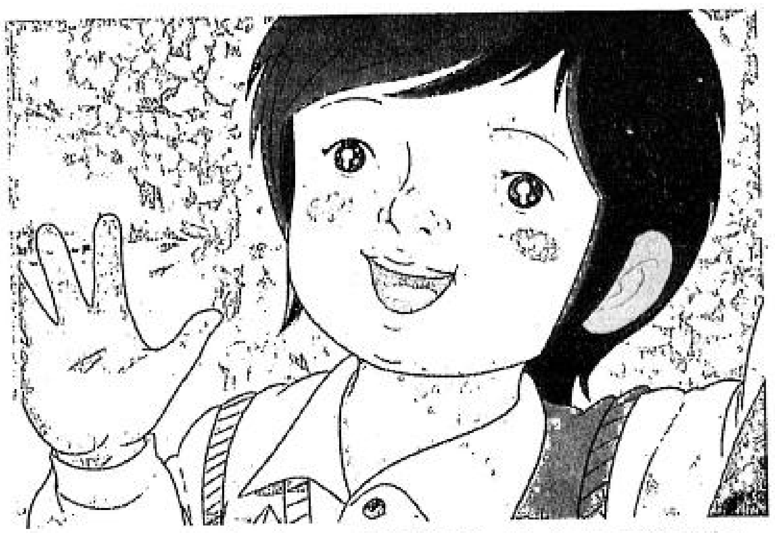
RPN garnered eight seals—for "Asin at Ilaw," "As Told by Ginger," "Biyaheng Langit," "Popeye and Son," "Roadtrip," "RPN Jr. News," "Signs and Wonders," and "Wild Thornberries."

NBN also received eight awards—for "Business and Leisure," "Damayan," "GSIS Members' Hour," "MMDA on the Road," "Network Forum," "Next Stop," "Talk Ko 'To," and "Teledyaryo."

Net 25 got seven seals—for "Arts 21," "Auto Motor Sports," "Convergence Reloaded," "Euromaxx," "In Focus," "The Planet" and "Tomorrow, Today."

ABS-CBN collected four awards—for "Art Jam," "Bear in the Big Blue House," "Madeline" and "Silip-Sining sa Lipunan."

IBC also had four awards—for "Ang Bagong Entrepinoy," "A Taste of Life," "Good Take" and "Serbis on the Go," while Zoe Broadcasting has three—for "Adyenda," "Diyos at Bayan" and "The 700 Club." And SBN received one award for "Ang Buhay Pinoy."


"HAPPY TALES." Cited among 71 child-friendly shows on the tube.

While we don't agree with all of the jurors' decisions, we congratulate them for a job generally well done. The viewers have spoken!

We must point out that ABC-5's impressive showing affirms the relatively new channel's stated goal of providing alternative viewing options for Filipinos.

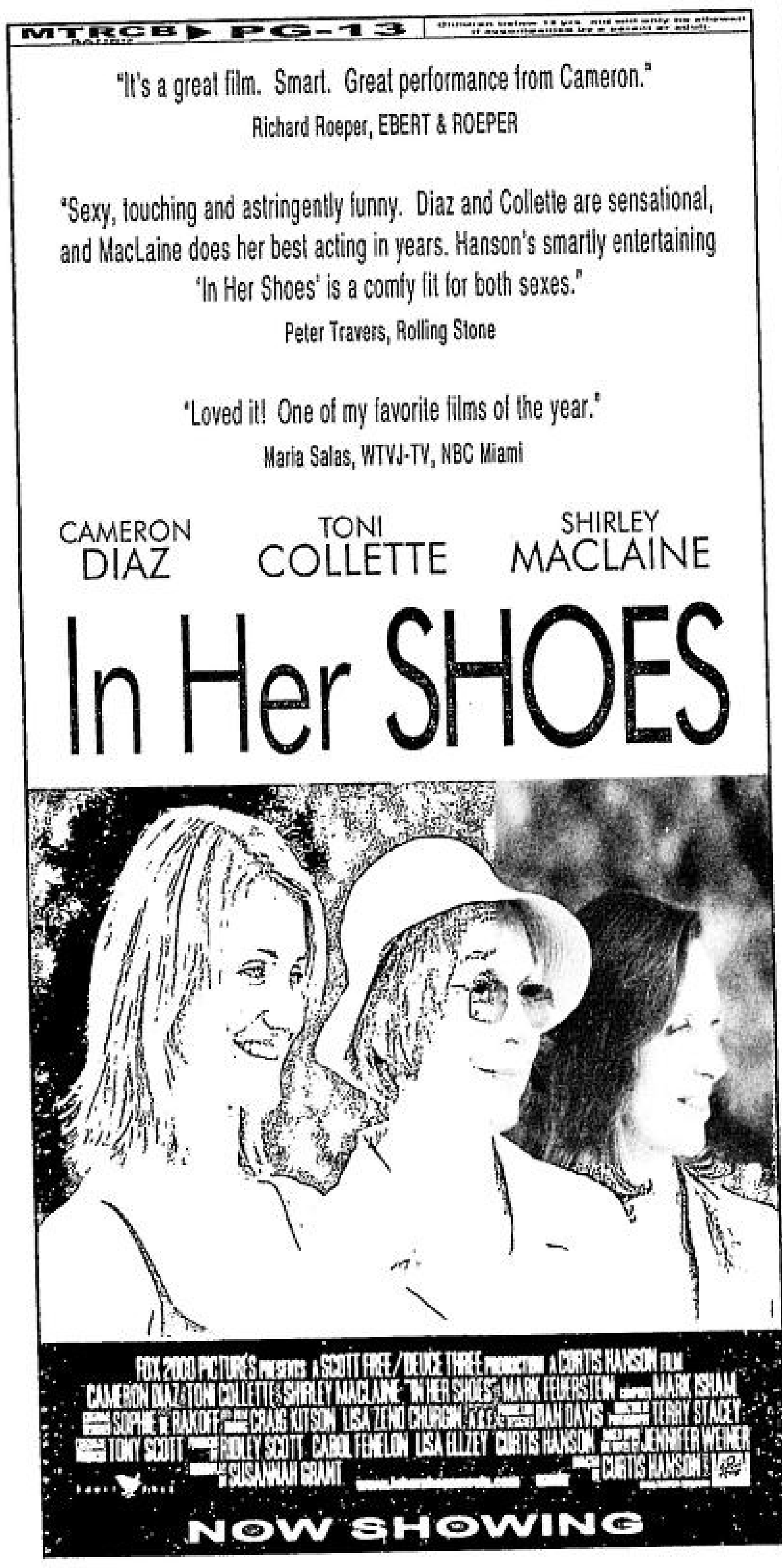
Conversely, we note that ABS-CBN got only four awards. A major network like it should do much better. We hope that this will be a cautionary reminder for ABS-CBN to think more about the welfare of children and families in their program offerings and presentation styles next year.

Westlife boys are back . . .

From page A5-4

The collection includes infectious tunes that could well be the boys' next big hit—"In This Life," "Amazing" and "Change Your Mind" are good bets. The lineup also includes "That's Where You Find Love," "She's Back," "Colour My World," "Heart Without a Home" and "Hit You With the Real Thing."

We may not have heard them on the radio since they covered Billy Joel's "Uptown Girl," but if current local radio airtime spent on "You Raise Me Up" is any indication, it looks like the boys will be signing a million more autographs in the next year or so!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Peter Travers, Rolling Stone
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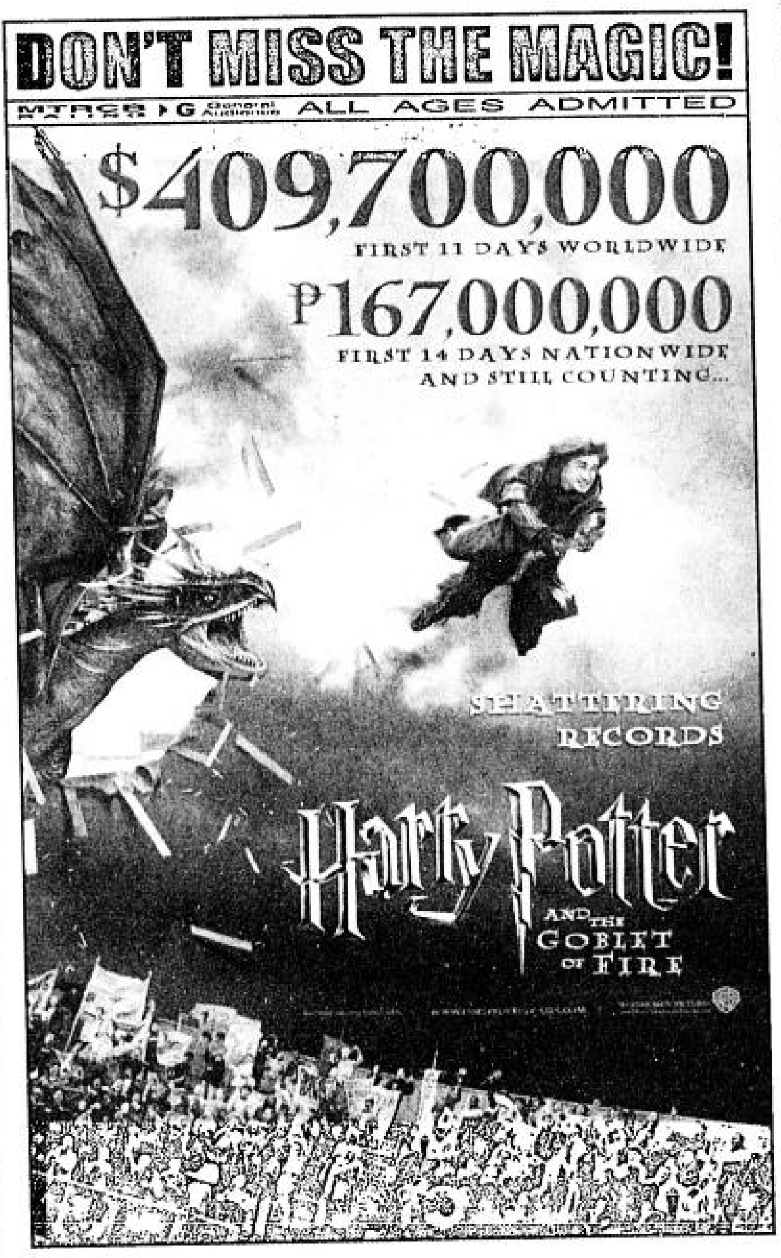
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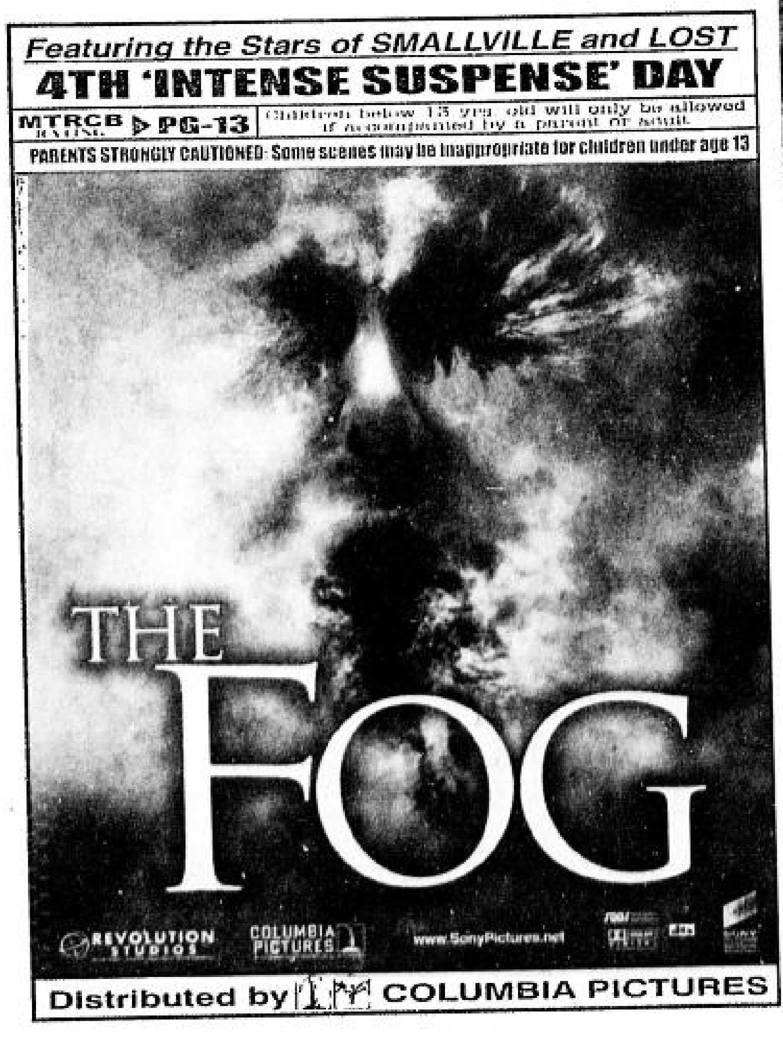
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WESTLIFE
FACE TO FACE

Westlife boys are back on track

By Rito P. Asilo

THE BOYS OF WESTLIFE MAY have faltered with last year's "Allow Us To Be Frank," a well-intentional but bland effort that paid tribute to Frank Sinatra and his music. This year, Shane Filan, Nicky Byrne, Mark Feehily and Kian Egan—this time, minus Bryan McFadden, who left the group sometime ago to pursue a solo career—are back in "Face to Face," an 11-track collection that is filled with the type of music that has endeared them to their loyal followers.

Gospel-tinged

Topping the track list is the gospel-tinged "You Raise Me Up," popularized early this year by Josh Groban. Like the boys' 1999 debut, 2000's "Coast to Coast," and 2001's World of Our Own," the album features songs that may not bristle with lyrical profundity and melodic creativity, but boasts of tunes that are indubitably infectious, groove-heavy and radio-friendly.

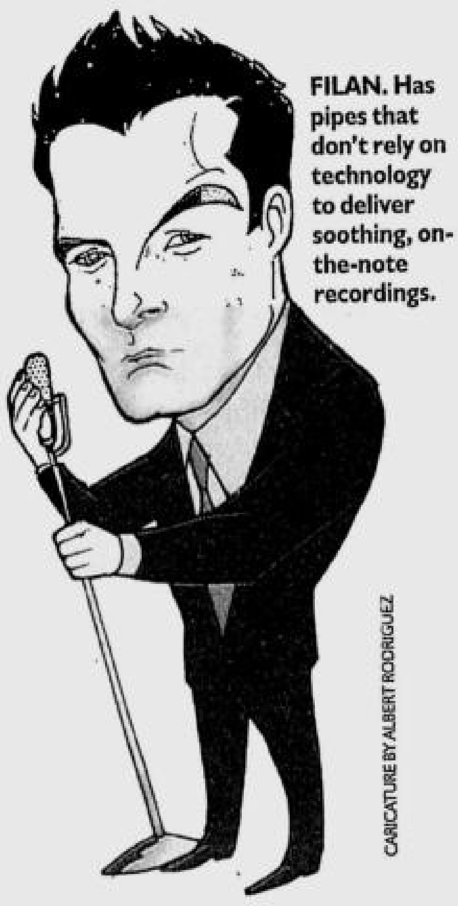
"Face to Face" contains well-produced covers that include a soulful version of The Eagles' "Desperado" and a guest stint by Diana Ross, who sings her signature sappy ballad, "When You Tell Me That You Love Me," with the boys. The effect is cringe-worthy, but hey, it's going to be a surefire hit!

Music critics may not like what Westlife offers all the time, but it's understandable why pop fanatics lap up the schmaltz and the popcorn songs: The boys don't just wing it on GQ-type good looks and a savvy publicity machine, they—particularly Filan and Feehily—possess pipes that don't rely on the magic of technology to deliver soothing, on-the-note recordings.

Range and power

They may not have the range and power of Blue's Lee Ryan (who has recently released a solo album), but they can sing and belt as much as they can smile and mug for their fans.

WESTLIFE/ A5-3


CARICATURE BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

FILAN. Has pipes that don't rely on technology to deliver soothing, on-the-note recordings.

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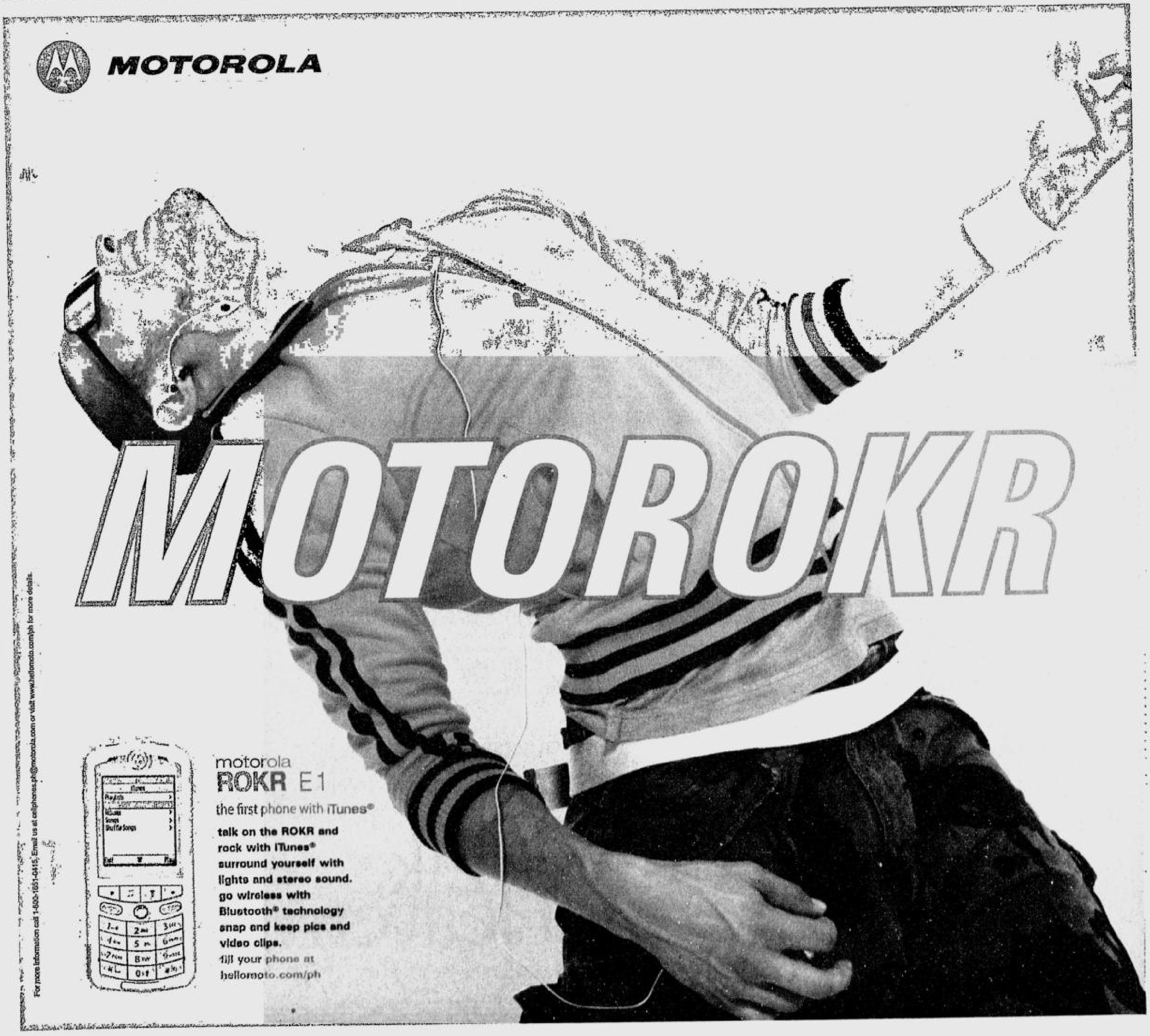
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Exports fell 3.2% in October to $3.63B

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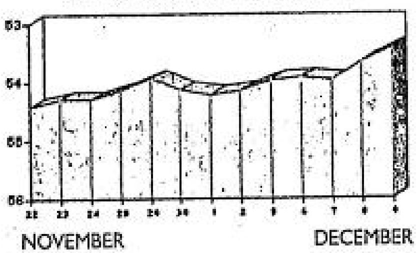

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P 53.42 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Dec. 9, 2005

¥ 120.66 = $1

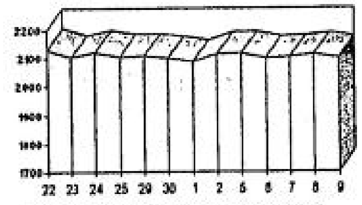
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 9, 2005

GOLD: $521.50-522.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 9, 2005

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.63 percent lower yesterday, snapping a two-day advance as investors cashed in on recent gains amid fresh concerns over rising oil prices, dealers said.

They said weak exports data for October provided an excuse for investors to lock in recent gains, while the peso's strength helped the market stay above 2,100 points.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 13.35 points to 2,100.25 after

SHARES/ B2

As demand for electronics weakens

By Michelle V. Remo

EXPORTS FELL 3.2 PERCENT TO $3.63 BILLION IN OCTOBER from $3.75 billion a year earlier as global demand for electronics continued to slide, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

In September, exports had fallen 1.2 percent to $3.6 billion from a year ago but risen 4.1 percent from August.

The NSO said electronics exports, which make up two-thirds of total shipments, fell 9 percent to $2.4 billion in October from a year earlier.

The electronics sector has been adversely affected by the high oil prices globally that had forced consumers to cut down spending on non-basic items.

The fall of electronics exports was reflected in all three categories, namely semiconductor, which dropped 8.1 percent; electronic data processing, which fell by 9.7 percent, and consumer electronics, which slid by 18.5 percent.

For the first 10 months, exports grew 3.2 percent to $33.76 billion from $32.72 billion in the same period in 2004.

The government set a target of 10-percent growth in exports this year, after the 9.6-percent expansion in 2004, but the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas now expects an expansion of just 6 percent due to weaker demand for the country's electronics exports.

Besides electronics, which are largely assembled into finished products from imported parts, other key exports include garments and accessories, vehicle parts, coconut oil, tropical fruit and wooden furniture.

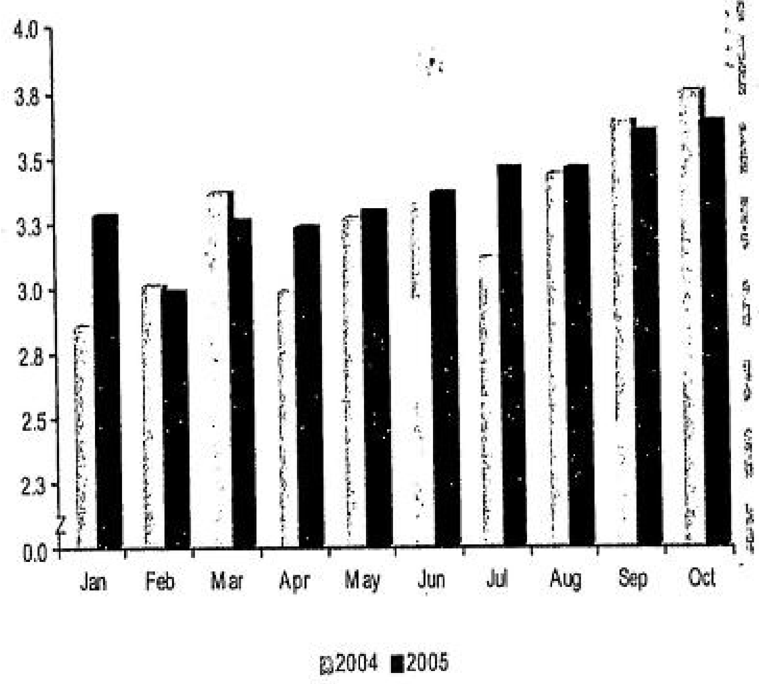
The low foreign demand for electronics had prompted officials of the National Economic and Development Authority to call for the development of programs that will help diversify the country's exports to become less dependent on electronics.

Bernardo Villegas, an economist and vice

EXPORTS/ B2

TOTAL EXPORTS

(January to October 2004 and 2005, in billion US$)



Gov't warned against heavy spending in '06

BEAR, STEARNS CO. INC. SAID the momentum of the country's improving fiscal situation faced the threat of disruption next year with a possibly higher expenditures in preparation for the elections in 2007.

"The market may want to see if control of expenditure will be as disciplined in 2006 as it was in 2005," the investment bank said in a paper on the Philippine economy. Trend showed that spending, especially for "infrastructure," expanded in a year preceding an election year, it added

With the possibility of having a new round of political noise, Bear, Stearns said, members of the opposition might revive impeachment efforts. "A new attempt to impeach President Arroyo in 2006 will make her sensitive to the needs of her supporters in ... Congress."

Efforts to improve the government's fiscal condition resulted in significant progress toward the goal of balancing the budget. Through lower-than-programmed spending and revenue collection surpassing programs, the budget deficit stood at only P115.5 billion in the first 10 months of the year, or P40.5 billion lower than the ceiling set for the January-to-October period, the Department of Finance earlier reported.

The Arroyo administration has set a target of reducing the budget deficit from P184.6 billion last year to P180 billion this year. But officials from the Department of Finance said the deficit was likely to settle below the P180-billion ceiling as indicated by the fiscal performance in the previous months.

For 2006, the government has set a deficit ceiling of P125 billion to be on track to achieving the goal of a zero deficit by the end of 2008.

Bear, Stearns said the delay in the implementation of the VAT Reform Law, from its supposed effectivity in July to November, would not be a threat to government efforts to meet the deficit target for this year.

The government originally targeted to collect about 30 billion in additional revenues this year out of the new VAT law, but the DOF said the delay would mean the maximum additional revenues that the government could collect from the new VAT this year would be only P5 billion.

GOV'T/ B2

WHAT'S INSIDE

BPI sees 10% profit growth in '06 /B2

PIB earmarked for Subic Freeport /B16

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BPI sees 10% profit growth in '06

PNOC-EDC to sell $2.5M in 'green' credits

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE HIGHEST EARNING SUBsidiary of the state-run Philippine National Oil Co. yesterday said it had forged an agreement with the Dutch government on the sale of some $2.46 million worth of greenhouse gas-reduction credits from its Negros geothermal project.

PNOC Energy Development Corp. chief executive Paul Aquino said the firm's 20-megawatt Nasulo geothermal power project in Negros was the first such facility to be certified for the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) under the Kyoto Protocol that was implemented last February.

Formalized in 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, the agreement legally binds at least 30 industrialized countries to meet targets for the reduction of GHG emissions and for lowering the risk of global climate change.

The pact-which has so far 84 signatory countries—provides for a CDM that allows industrialized countries to meet their GHG reduction targets by investing in emission reduction "credits" from projects based in developing countries.

In other words, rich countries that could not meet the required reduction of their GHG emissions may be able to do so if they bought GHG reduction credits of clean projects in poor countries.

The emission reductions purchase agreement provides that the government of The Netherlands, committed—through the Netherlands CDM Facility—to buy at least 88,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent between 2008 and 2012.

This means the Dutch would buy the at least 440,000 MT of "displaced" carbon dioxide emission or the amount of greenhouse gas that would have been produced if the Nasulo facility burned fossil fuel instead of using underground steam.

According to Lasse Ringius, World Bank's senior environment specialist, the average price of CDM credits from geothermal facilities was pegged at $5.60 a ton in 2004.

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE Islands, the country's second biggest lender, is on track to meeting its 5-10 percent net profit growth target this year and hopes to post at least the same numbers in 2006.

BPI president Aurelio Montinola III told reporters yesterday that the bank was optimistic about 2006 given an improving economic environment.

"Things look better. There's less concern about interest rates, less concern about the exchange rate," Montinola said, "Inflation is still high but I think we've seen the worst of it. The bottom line is that as of this point in time, we're looking at the year positively, which was not the case last year."

"Looking forward into next year, we feel we should at least match the performance of this year," Montinola added.

He said the bank's loan portfolio likewise expanded by about 5-7 percent this year.

BPI wants its lending to rise by 10 percent, but he said demand was still sluggish, especially from the corporate sector.

"The corporations can get money on their own. There's such a thing as disintermediation," he said, noting that blue chips like SM Investment Corp. and the Ayala group were able to raise funds without having to go through the banks.

The corporate sector accounts for 40 percent of BPI's portfolio, while consumer lending has a 25 percent share.

The rest of the loans went to the middle-income market.

BPI's asset management business, Montinola said, had a banner year this year with volume growing 20 percent.

"If I may summarize what we've been doing this year, it has been a relatively good year," Montinola said, noting that the bank's business volume had increased by about 20 percent this year.

He noted that the bank's credit card billing had gone up 20 percent and the remittances business, 15 percent.

The deposit base had likewise expanded, he noted, especially with the acquisition of Prudential Bank.

BPI bought about 91.5 percent of the bank for P5.6 billion.

Prudential Bank is a mid-size commercial bank with about P60 billion in assets as of June 30, 2005. It has a network of 187 branches and 52 automatic teller machines (ATM) nationwide that are seen to complement BPI's own 707 branches and 1,300 ATMs.

Exports . . .

From page B1

president of the University of Asia and the Pacific, said that while the export sector was already feeling the crunch of dwindling global demand, the strengthening of the peso against the US dollar was aggravating the situation.

The peso, which recently moved to the 53-to-a-dollar level, has strengthened due to a surge in the remittances of overseas Filipino workers. A higher peso has economic benefits, such as making imports cheaper, but it also makes Philippine exports more expensive to foreigners and therefore less competitive.

"It is wise not to strengthen the peso too much. Our biggest exporters are still reeling from one of the highest energy costs in the region," Villegas said.

He projected that the maximum export growth that the country could attain for the full year was 5 percent. Holiday spending in the last two months of the year could still slightly push the average exports growth figure upward from the 3.2 percent as of October.

Apparel and clothing accessories were the second biggest exports for the month, accounting for a 5.7-percent share. Earnings from shipments of these products jumped 27.7 percent year-on-year to $207.72 million.

Petroleum products were the third-biggest exports, with sales reaching $80.57 million or 84.7 percent higher than last year's.

The United States was the biggest market for Philippine products in October, accounting for $692.45 million or 19 percent of total export earnings for the month.

Japan followed, accounting for $516.59 million or 14.2 percent of total export earnings. The third biggest export market was the Netherlands, accounting for $412.68 million or 11.4 percent of total export earnings.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Dec. 9, 2005)

Stocks	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	33	33	32.5	32.5	433,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58.5	57.5	57.5	182,000
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	940
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.75	2,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	1,440,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	55	56	55	56	59,000
International Exch. Bank	21.5	21.5	21.5	21.5	44,800
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	33	33.5	33	33.5	329,100
Philippine National Bank	32	33	32	32.5	54,600
Security Bank Corp.	32.5	33	32.5	33	100,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	30.5	31	30.5	31	4,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3160	3160	3160	3160	100
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2110	2110	2110	2110	540
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	4,800
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.9	0.91	0.9	0.91	60,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	745	745	740	740	21,330
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	1,100,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.45	3.45	2,491,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1780	1780	1770	1775	141,620
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	53,900,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	16	15.5	16	25,100
Manila Electric Co. B	24.25	24.75	24	24.75	855,800
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.4	6.4	130,000
Petron Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.55	1,966,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.82	110,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9.7	9.7	9.6	9.6	55,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	1,570,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.83	50,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.85	1,102,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	15,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22	22.5	337,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	43	44	43	44	493,000
Pancake House Inc.	3.65	3.65	3.6	3.6	202,000
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	290,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	100,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64	64	63.5	64	114,800
San Miguel Corp. B	87	87	85.5	85.5	50,800
Universal Robina Corp.	18.5	18.5	18.5	18.5	2,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	332.5	335	330	330	923,910
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.8	606,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	1,000,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	23,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.89	0.87	0.89	710,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	2,238,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.89	0.89	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.32	0.33	0.32	0.33	1,020,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	450,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	100,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	184,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	48	49.5	48	49	940,600
House of Investments Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	132,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.55	2,216,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.58	1.58	1.54	1.56	202,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.26	1.26	747,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	17,800,000
Paxys Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.1	6.1	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	350,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	250	250	249	249	48,390
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	200,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.5	3.5	9,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	600,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,300,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	450,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	120,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	200,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	4,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	2,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	3,870,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	109,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	106,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	14	14.25	14	14.25	254,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	9.7	9.9	9.7	9.9	10,067,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	91,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	614,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	2,380,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	3,235,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	10,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	30,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	80,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	201,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	200,000
SM Development Corp.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	20,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.8	7.8	9,645,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	40,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.97	0.97	0.96	0.96	210,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	30,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6	6	6	6	1,000
Benguet Corp. A	7.5	7.6	7.3	7.3	39,000
Benguet Corp. B	30	30	30	30	1,100
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.225	0.215	0.215	1,910,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.245	4,880,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	20,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	66,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	33,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.36	1,803,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.76	1.76	1.72	1.72	3,363,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	200,500
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	10,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	35,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	61,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	13,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	410,000

CURRENCIES

December 9, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.846024	1.000000	53.7690
Japan	Yen	0.007032	0.008312	0.4469
United Kingdom	Pound	1.483418	1.753400	94.2786
Hongkong	Dollar	0.109111	0.128969	6.9345
Switzerland	Franc	0.650887	0.769349	41.3671
Canada	Dollar	0.730464	0.863409	46.4246
Singapore	Dollar	0.502628	0.594106	31.9445
Australia	Dollar	0.635201	0.750807	40.3701
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.244273	2.652731	142.6347
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.225607	0.266667	14.3384
Brunei	Dollar	0.501140	0.592347	31.8499
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000102	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020514	0.024248	1.3038
UAE	Dirham	0.230349	0.272272	14.6398
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.182000	63.5550
Argentina	Peso	0.282951	0.334448	17.9829
Brazil	Real	0.382816	0.452489	24.3299
Denmark	Kroner	0.134277	0.158715	8.5339
India	Rupee	0.018320	0.021654	1.1643
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224350	0.265182	14.2586
Mexico	New Peso	0.080317	0.094935	5.1046
New Zealand	Dollar	0.593243	0.701213	37.7035
South Africa	Rand	0.133865	0.158228	8.5078
Korea	Won	0.000818	0.000967	0.0520
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025285	0.029887	1.6070

Gov't warned . . .

From page B1

However, Bear, Stearns said: "The VAT law is basically irrelevant to compression of the budget deficit in 2005. The deficit has been reduced this year through a very careful control of spending resulting in expenditure rising only about 7 percent, less than inflation," the bank said.

The VAT law, the centerpiece of the Arryo administration's fiscal reform agenda, basically expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity, among others, and will raise the tax rate from 10 to 12 percent next year.

Allegations by some members of the opposition and oil firms that the new VAT law was unconstitutional was the reason for its delayed implementation. The law took effect in Nov. 1, following the Supreme Court decision that the law was constitutional. *Michelle V. Remo*

Shares close lower

From page B1

trading between 2,100.17 and 2,115.79. Volume was 446 million shares worth P2 billion.

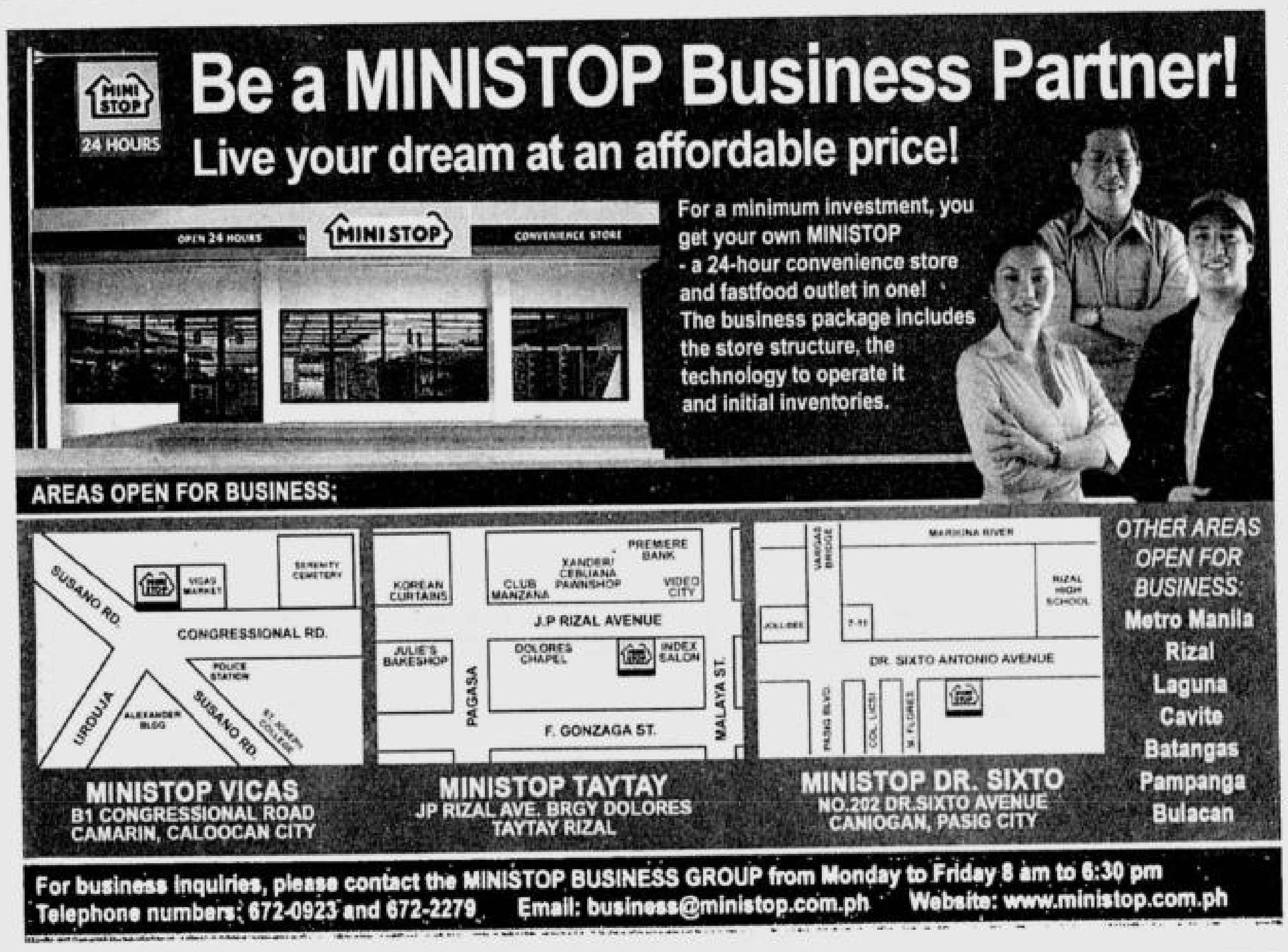
The all-shares index fell 6.62 points to 1,270.67.

Losers beat gainers 42 to 21, with 54 stocks unchanged.

"What we saw today was a knee-jerk reaction to the spike in oil prices and lower (Philippine Long Distance Telephone) stocks in the US," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

PLDT retreated P15 to P1,775 after its New York-listed shares closed weaker.

Oil closed up $1.45 at $60.66 a barrel in New York Thursday and extend gains above $61 in Asian trade. *AFP*



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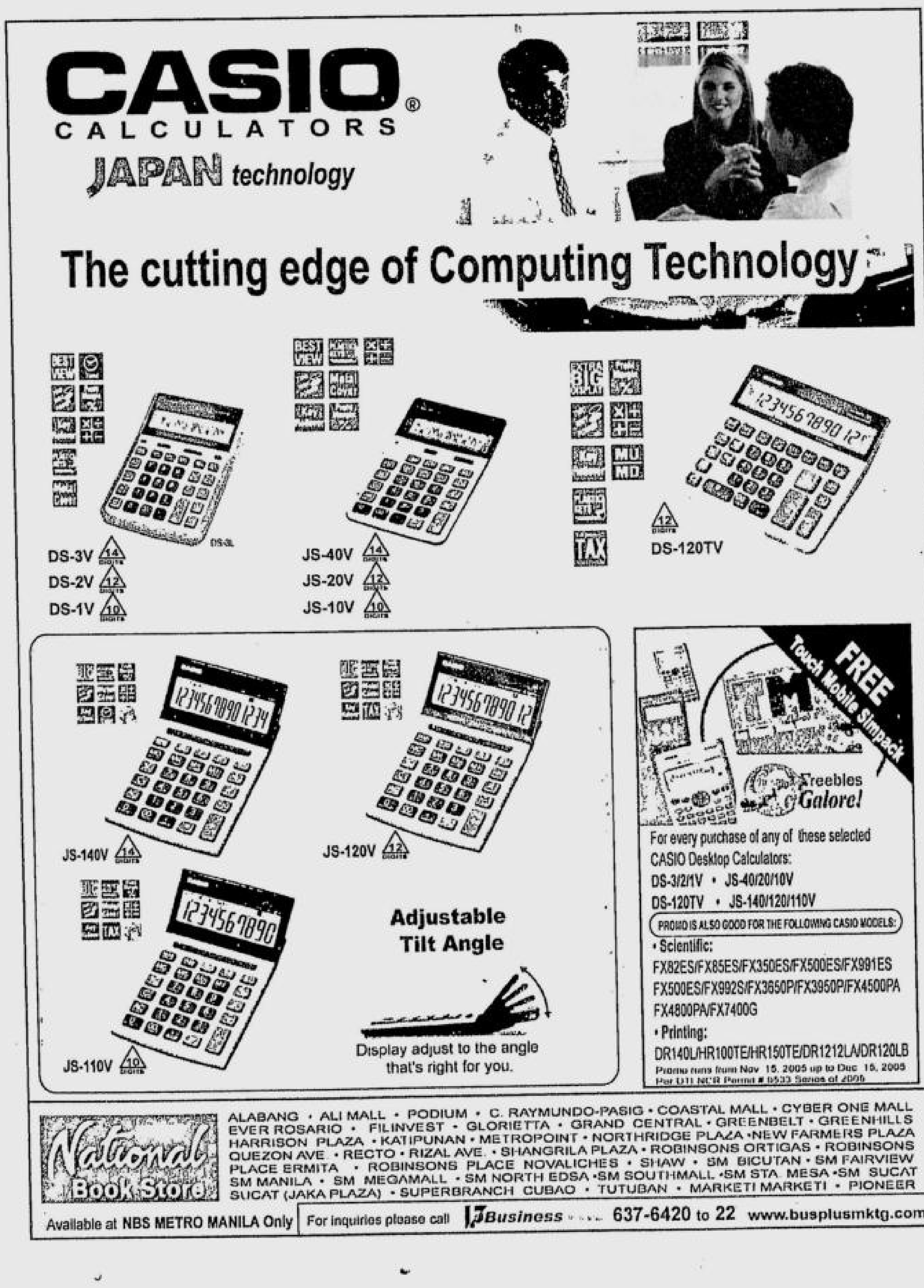

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Creditors want new funds infused into MMC

Condition for restructuring of ₱1.2B worth of loans

By Clarissa S. Batino

MAKATI MEDICAL CENTER MUST obtain fresh capital to fuel its recovery, said Development Bank of the Philippines, the hospital's biggest creditor.

DBP president Reynaldo David said the creditors were still evaluating Makati Med's request for the extension of the maturity of its loans.

David hinted that creditors wanted new money to come in first before they would consider restructuring Makati Med's loans worth about P1.2 billion. Of the amount, DBP accounts for P350 million.

"A capital infusion is crucial to the bank especially because it is planning to do other things, such as putting up a new hospital building," said David in an interview.

Makati Med president Gabino Mendoza said creditors would meet with the hospital's finance team soon.

"The meeting should help convince our creditors to restructure our loans even before we attract new capital," said Mendoza in an interview.

In the meantime, Makati Med is awaiting ATR Kim-Eng's proposal in solving the hospital's financial woes.

"We hired ATR Kim-Eng as financial consultant to give us advise on how to deal with our creditors and to finance the projects we have in mind," said the Makati Med chief.

ATR Kim-Eng, he said, had also been talking with Makati Med creditors on how they could make the terms of outstanding loans easier for the ailing hospital to service.

Makati Med wants banks to extend the maturity of its outstanding debts to about 10 years from the existing term of six years.

The hospital also has obligations to Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Land Bank of the Philippines, Insular Savings, and the Social Security System.

Makati Med also has P400 million in non-bank obligations.

Sources said the ailing hospital's capacity to service its debts had been diminished by years of inefficient management and mounting losses.

Banks normally require borrowers to maintain a one-to-one ratio of current assets to current liabilities. But, at present, for every peso of Makati Med's assets, it has P4 in liabilities. Mendoza said the hospital had stopped hemorrhaging in some places but it had not completely stopped the bleeding.

Several investors are keen on infusing equity into the hospital. Mendoza said ATR Kim-Eng would help the company determine the best way to facilitate the entry of new investors.

At least 7 Filipino investors, including PLDT and Smart chair Manuel Pangilinan had offered to invest about P3 billion in Makati Med so it could put up a new hospital building.

Gotianun company seeks ₱390-M loan

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FILINVEST DEVELOPMENT Corp., the holding firm of the Gotianun family for its mall and leisure projects, as well as banking services, is seeking a P390-million loan from Sunlife of Canada (Phils) Inc.

The amount will be used to refinance debts and fund working capital, the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE) yesterday.

FDC said its board had given the go-signal for FDC to seek the loan.

Last November, FDC said it was also securing a five-year P540-million loan from ING Bank N.V. and Insular Life Assurance Co. Ltd. to refinance debts.

FDC signed an agreement with both banks for various trust accounts covering the terms of the company loan.

In its financial statement as of Sept. 30, FDC said its long-term debt increased to P10.7 billion due to various project development loans. Its total consolidated assets stood at P82.8 billion.

Net income in the first nine months was P383.7 million, 129 percent higher than P167.4 million. This was attributed largely to the growth of its real estate operations.

FDC is the listed holding company of the Filinvest group of companies, which traces its origins to the consumer finance business established by businessman Andrew L. Gotianun Sr. and his family in 1955.

The group has been into real estate development since 1967 and is now among the leading property developers in the Philippines. With its diversification into non-property businesses, the group believes it will benefit from a wide base of growth businesses in property, banking and financial services, and power generation and construction materials manufacturing.

MoneyGram offers new delivery options in RP

MONEYGRAM IS OFFERING ITS customers in the Philippines two new money transfer options—home delivery and delivery to an ATM card.

Through an agreement with LBC, an international cargo and courier service provider, MoneyGram is now able to provide its customers the option of door-to-door delivery of funds to most residential locations in the Philippines, as well as the option to receive funds deposited to the recipient's LBÇ-branded ATM card.

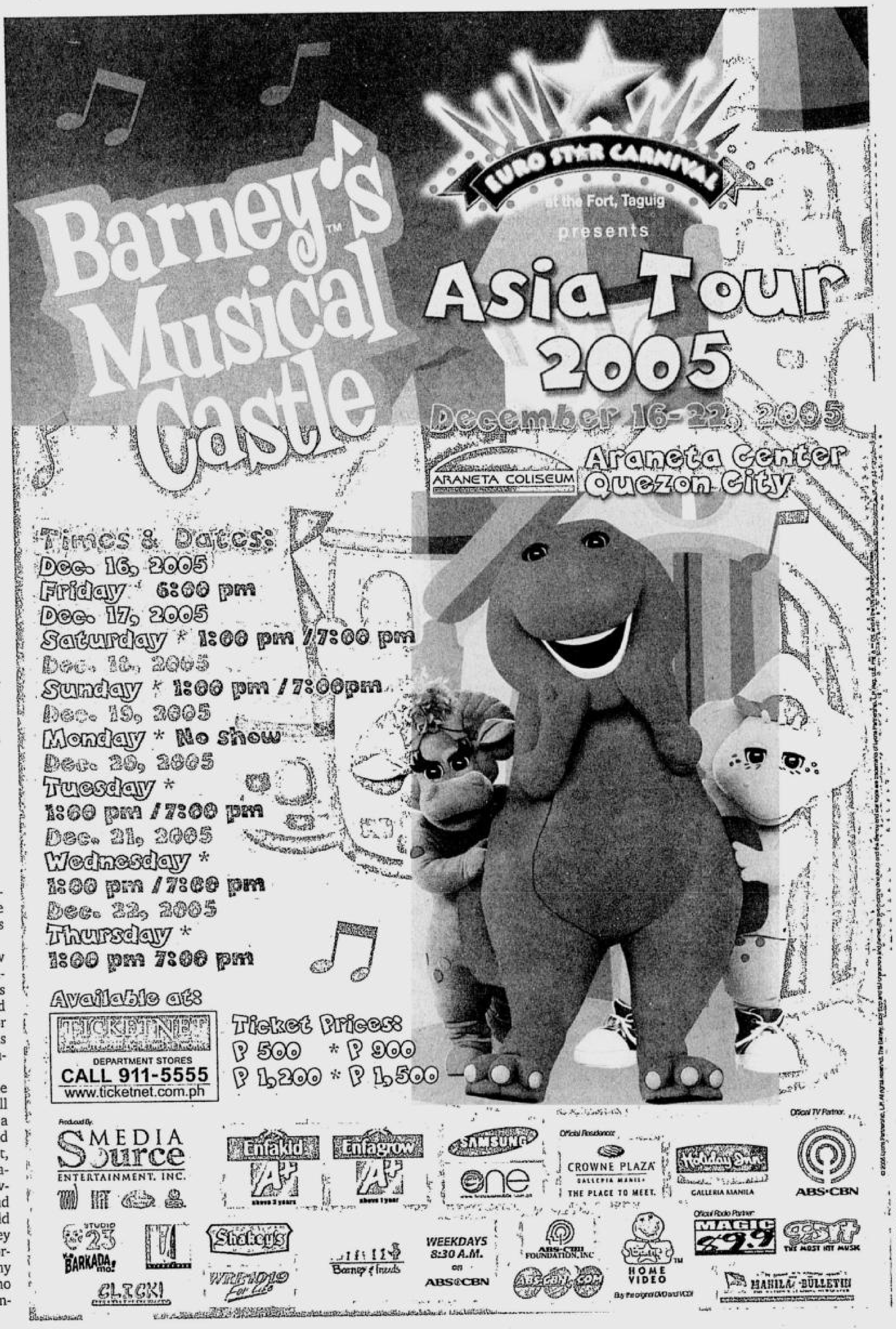
Receive customers will also have the traditional option of picking up the funds at one of MoneyGram's many agent locations.

"MoneyGram is very committed to the Philippine market, and we are very excited about the agreement with LBC," said Tony Ryan, MoneyGram vice president for global fund transfer.

"We have spent more than a year developing these new products and service options and have exciting plans for more services in the near future.

"This is an example of how MoneyGram is constantly developing new products and services that are reliable and secure, and most importantly affordable for the Philippine customers. This will also set the stage for our future product enhancements."

"LBC and MoneyGram provide an opportunity for Filipinos all over the world to send money in a safe and trusted manner," said Michael Salomon, vice presicent, LBC's Southern California operations. "LBC has the largest delivery network in the Philippines and thus Filipinos all over the world are being given choices, be it they want their money being sent door-to-door or via ATM. Based on my travels throughout Europe, no other company can offer as extensive a delivery service."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Understanding is key to helping ADHD child

By Charles E. Buban

TAKING CARE OF A child with special needs may be hard for a parent, but if the parent has the necessary information and support, it can also be rewarding, says an expert.

According to Dr. Mark Reysio Cruz III, a developmental and behavioral pediatrician, such information should go beyond mere identification of the symptoms so the parent could deal with the child consistently, calmly and effectively.

"We want to ensure that the child's behavior problems associated with the condition is managed and reduced," he said.

He cited as example Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), a condition that often manifests during preschool or early school years. Cruz said that although life with a child with ADHD may at times seem challenging, it is important to remember that the child can and does become highly successful later in life.

"Understanding the condition and finding strategies to cope with symptoms can help improve a child's life and the harmony within the family and in school," said Cruz.

Earlier, better

Cruz said the earlier a parent addresses his or her child's problems, the more likely the child would be able to prevent school and social failure often associated with ADHD (becoming an underachiever and having poor self-esteem).

"Take note too, that most children with ADHD have high energy and intensity, which, if channeled constructively, can be used to assist them in managing their behavior as well as in performing in activities such as art, music and sports," he said.

Since every parent wants to determine what treatment approach will be most effective for his or her child, the parent may start by talking with the child's pediatrician or their family doctor.

"Some pediatricians may do the assessment themselves, but often they refer the parent to an appropriate mental health specialist they know and trust," Cruz suggested.

He emphasized that no single treatment is best for all children and parents should consider all treatments available like behavioral techniques, drug medication, stress management and educational support.

"This is why each child's needs and personal history must be carefully considered. For example, if a child with ADHD has anxiety or depression, a treatment combining medication and behavioral therapy might work more effectively," Cruz said.

Neurotransmitter

Today there are a variety of medications used to treat ADHD symptoms. While a class of drugs known as stimulants have been used for decades to treat the symptoms of ADHD, the US Food and Drug Administration recently approved a different type of medication that does not fall within this class of drugs and yet has been proven to be effective at treating symptoms of ADHD.

Unlike stimulant drugs that primarily work on the neurotransmitter dopamine, atomoxetine (marketed as Strattera by Eli Lilly) works on another neurotransmitter called norepinephrine.

Neurotransmitters are brain chemicals that relay signals between nerve cells and are required for proper brain function.

"Drug medication is an essential part in the holistic treatment of ADHD. While these drugs are very effective in improving concentration and impulsiveness and reducing hyperactivity, treatment becomes more effective when used together with behavioral intervention," Cruz said.

Benefits vs risks

Cruz said drugs should be evaluated for their risks and benefits.

"People respond differently to medications, so it is always important to weigh the personal advantages of any drug for ADHD against risks small and large. Thus, close follow-up and regular appointment with the doctor is highly encouraged. If parents and their doctors stay alert to the warnings, the child can still have the benefit of the drug while significantly reducing the risks," he said.

Cruz said it is necessary to develop and implement for example, the use of clearly defined rules and consequences, and offering regular incentives and rewards that appeal to the ADHD child's need for immediate gratification and emotional stimulation.

"It is also necessary to work each day on a positive parent-child relationship that maintains the child's sense of being loved and cared for despite problems that may arise. This is the cornerstone of effectively dealing with all children," said Cruz.

Battle against cancer

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

MEDICAL FILES

TAIPEH—OUR MAIN AGENDA for our meeting here was appraising Asian medical opinion leaders on cardiovascular problems in the region. But during the session breaks and free time, we couldn't help but discuss the No. 1 cause of deaths in Taiwan, which is cancer.

Cardiovascular diseases, the leading cause of deaths in most Asian countries including the Philippines, only come a far second in Taiwan. Three in every 10 deaths in Taiwan are due to cancer, compared to one in 10 in the Philippines.

Although there has been a decreasing trend for cancers of the stomach and uterus, an increasing trend has been observed for cancers of the lung, liver, oral cavity, colon and rectum, breast and prostate. There is also a much higher risk of liver, throat and cervical cancers in Taiwan compared to other parts of Asia.

Cancer prevention

Our health authorities can pick some lessons from Taiwan's cancer prevention and early detection program. Their hepatitis B vaccination program, started in July 1984, has resulted in a significant decrease in childhood liver cancer. It is disconcerting to see children with jaundiced eyes and bloated abdomens as their bodies are consumed by liver cancer.

I think there are more smokers here than in the Philippines, but the government is intensifying its anti-smoking campaign using all possible media and forums. A decrease in the prevalence of cigarette smoking has been observed among middle-aged men since the ordinance on the Control of Tobacco Hazards was enacted in 1997.

Free mass screening of uterine, cervical and colorectal cancer has been implemented as part of Taiwan's national health insurance program since 1995. They also screen families with strong histories for liver, throat and breast cancers.

Early diagnosis

Taiwan has recorded an increase in early diagnosis of cancers because of their screening measures, leading to the prompt treatment of many cancer patients. Although many Taiwanese are still dying of cancer, many are also surviving this killer disease because of early detection.

Most cancer patients are diagnosed by biopsies and treated by surgical operation, chemotherapy and radiotherapy. It is now acknowledged that Taiwan is one of the leading centers for cancer treatment in Asia. These centers have become sources of new clinical data on cancer treatment. The Taiwan Collaborative Oncology Group has been organized to do multicenter clinical trials to assess the efficacy of various treatment modalities.

The Taiwanese are now thoroughly studying their diet, which has been implicated in certain types of cancers such as those of the stomach, colon and rectum. One report showed a strong association between artesian well water containing high arsenic levels and cancers in certain areas in Taiwan endemic for the blackfoot disease, a unique disease of the blood vessels of the legs related to continuous arsenic exposure. They have identified a relatively high risk for cancers of the urinary bladder, kidney, skin, lung, liver and colon in these areas.

In planning intervention strategies, it's important to study the pattern of the various types of cancer based on gender and age. According to a report of Chien-Jen Chen published in the Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology, most cancers in Taiwan showed an increasing risk of death as one grows older except for mouth and throat cancers in males and breast cancer in females.

The peak age varied from cancer to cancer. It was 55-59 years for male mouth cancer and throat cancer and more than 70 years for other male cancers. The incidence of male liver cancer showed a plateau between ages 60-64 and 80-84. The peak age was 45-49 for cervical cancer and 60-64 for female breast cancer. All other female cancers had a peak incidence after age 70.

St. Luke's implements new antibiotic policy

RAISING THE STANDARDS IN quality healthcare in the country, St. Luke's Medical Center implemented a new hospital-wide antibiotic policy that provides guidelines aimed at assisting physicians in choosing the most rational, safe, effective and cost-efficient antimicrobial to promote its judicious use and to minimize antibiotic resistance.

Dr. Celia C. Carlos, chair of the hospital's subcommittee on criteria-monitored drugs of pharmacy and therapeutics committee, said the Criteria-Monitored Antimicrobials (CMA) policy was meant to address antimicrobial resistance, one of the key issues in the management of infectious diseases worldwide.

"Based on evidence gathered from scientific literature, expert opinion and from existing treatment guidelines, the committee came up with a list of antibiotics with predetermined criteria for use," Carlos said. "With this policy, we hope the doctors at St. Luke's will be able to more appropriately prescribe the identified CMAs using established indications."

List of drugs

The policy lists 18 controlled antimicrobial drugs that require the approval of an infectious disease consultant before it is administered to patients.

The drugs are amikacin, ertapenem, imipenem/cilastatin, meropenem, piperacillin/tazobactam, ticarcillin/clavulanate, cefoperazone/sulbactam, ceftazidime, cefepime, vancomycin, aztrenam, linezolid, anphotericin B, fluconazole, itraconazole, moxifloxacin, gatifloxacin and levofloxacin.

"Complications may arise if a patient is given a very broad spectrum antimicrobial as is most of the selected CMAs," Carlos said. "He might develop superinfections because of this since all sensitive bacteria are eradicated by the antibiotic, allowing the proliferation of resistant strains."

Carlos explained that superinfections are associated with very high mortality and cost.

"There will arise the need to use more broad spectrum and more expensive antibiotics, warranting prolonged hospital stay. In many instances, there may no longer be any alternative antibiotic which may treat the patient's infection, leading to higher mortality rates," she said.

The subcommittee is composed of a chair and 16 members from infectious disease, ear, nose and throat, ophthalmology, obstetrics-gynecology, medical intensive care unit, surgery, emergency medicine, microbiology, epidemiology, pharmacology, nursing service pharmacy and infection control service.

Uncooked soy lowers cholesterol, says study

TWO SERVINGS A DAY OF soy protein—such as that found in tofu, soy milk or soy powder—can lower cholesterol levels by as much as 9 percent as long as the raw soy is uncooked, a study found.

Soy-fortified muffins, cereals or nutritional bars in which the soy protein was baked at high temperatures do not provide the benefit, study author James Anderson said.

An 8 percent to 9 percent drop in low-density lipoprotein, the so-called bad cholesterol that can lead to heart disease, can be gained from eating uncooked soy protein in the form of two 340 ml servings of soy milk daily or two 57 grams servings of tofu, said Anderson, a scientist at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Cooking the tofu does not destroy the key proteins because they have been stabilized.

The health benefit also is found in soy nuts, soy powder sprinkled on food or in milkshakes, or edamame, a raw or parboiled edible form of soybeans popular in Japan.

Eating the soy foods all at once would overwhelm the body's ability to process so they must be consumed in two separate servings, Anderson said.

Cooking scrambles the amino acids contained in soy proteins and eliminates the health benefit, he said.

A decade ago, Anderson was instrumental in publicizing the link between eating soy protein and lowering cholesterol, although he said his analysis was slightly flawed. *Reuters*

Homecoming for Fr. Schmitt

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

ATENEO PROFESSOR DR. Achoot Cuyegkeng reminisces about Fr. Bill Schmitt, SJ:

The young novice of the New York province of the Jesuits came to the Philippines in 1950 to teach at the Ateneo high school. After two years, he pursued his doctorate in Chemistry at Fordham University and then studied Theology. By 1961, he was in the Ateneo Chemistry Department and recruited scientists who would work together to give the department the reputation it still enjoys.

With perseverance and single-mindedness, he oversaw the construction of the Chemistry Building in 1965.

Under his leadership, the department took shape, working toward a common vision, improving its programs, and building up its reputation for excellence and attracting the best students to study chemistry.

Father Schmitt was a great teacher. He prepared thoroughly, explained clearly, gave tough exams and fair grades. He was a good mentor: he spent precious time with his advisees, pushed them to give all they could, and knew when to give them necessary space. He was proudest when his students did well, particularly if they did better than he.

No shortcuts

As a scientist, he was thorough, exact and honest—the same qualities he would impart to his students. He took no shortcuts.

During the turbulent Marcos years, Father Schmitt did not really care if the students had to boycott classes to go to a rally, but he admonished them to "know your Chemistry and know it well."

His high standard for Analytical Chemistry was also instrumental in the establishment of the Philippine Institute of Pure and Applied Chemistry, of which he was a founding director.

Father Schmitt was a role model for Jesuit-lay partnership. He was generous, obedient and open; and knew when to let go with an open heart. He would even ask permission to do certain things, to show how much he respected his lay partners.

He accepted decisions, even if it could be sensed that he was not really all that agreeable, as long as he saw that it was for the good of the department.

He became excited with department plans and to the day of his death, he was still assisting in the electrical and mechanical details of the new Science Education Complex.

Good homilies

Probably the least known aspect of Father Schmitt was how good he was at giving homilies. During his Friday morning masses at the College Chapel, he would remind people of how much God loves them, how great this God was who created an intelligent world that could run on its own, how people should open their hearts to Him.

On Dec. 19, 1997, at noon, God called His true and faithful servant. In honor of this remarkable teacher, the Ateneo Chemistry Department and Chemistry Society invite Chemistry alumni and friends to a grand homecoming, "Ateneo Chemistry at 40: Building on Schmitt's Legacy" on Dec. 17. Registration starts at 3 p.m. at the lobby of Schmitt Hall.

The homecoming also hopes to raise funds for the W.J. Schmitt Foundation Inc. and the Amando F. Kapuan Chair, the proceeds of which will be used for scholarships and instrument maintenance.

Surgeons to offer training in remote areas

By Tessa R. Salazar

SPREADING THE knowledge of surgery to medical practitioners serving in remote areas is one of the major projects by the incoming president of the 2,200-strong Philippine College of Surgeons.

Dr. Eduardo R. Gatchalian said the project was the offshoot of a Philippine Health Insurance Corp. report that 65 percent of those who perform surgeries in the country are doctors licensed to practice medicine but are not fully trained in surgery.

Gatchalian said PCS plans to conduct more post-graduate courses to educate medical practitioners.

Dr. Arturo S. dela Peña, outgoing PCS president, said the PCS had already identified specific areas in the country that lacked surgeons.

Dela Peña said that in highly urbanized areas in the country, the ratio of surgeons to the population was adequate. In Metro Manila, for instance, the ratio is one surgeon to 14,000 people.

The acceptable ratio, according to the World Health Organization, is one surgeon for every 20,000 population.

More incentives

Fully trained surgeons, Gatchalian said, were surgeons who have undergone a training program, passed examinations and have been certified to practice a certain branch of surgery.

Gatchalian pushed for added incentives for surgeons practicing their profession in remote areas.

Aside from lobbying for added incentives from the Department of Health, Gatchalian said the PCS would also urge drug companies to give incentives to increase the income of surgeons who serve in these areas.

These surgeons would also be able to constantly update their knowledge through an e-university accessible in the PCS website.

Learning modules and courses will be offered to fellows free of charge. A clinical appraisal course will be offered to sharpen their skills in assessing journals.

Gatchalian appealed to his fellow surgeons to assure patients and the public that the PCS is composed of "safe, ethical and competent surgeons and that they can be trusted."

"Not too many people are aware that it takes long to be a surgeon or that the PCS exists for their welfare. We are not arrogant doctors who charge exorbitant fees. We are dedicated, compassionate, and altruistic practitioners," Gatchalian said.

Gatchalian said the PCS is negotiating with radio station dzMB to expand the program "Ang Galing Mo, Dok" to the provinces.

Another PCS project is the "Surgery in the Unvisited Regions and Education" (SURE) and surgical missions.

The PCS, which has 11 chapters and 19 specialty societies nationwide, is the umbrella organization of all cutting specialties that include general surgery, plastic, urology, pediatric surgery, neurosurgery, thoracic cardiovascular, obstetrics and gynecology.

Probiotics can help control antibiotic associated bacteria

A NEW AND MORE VIRULENT STRAIN OF A potentially fatal hospital infection has been seen in the United Kingdom.

Clostridium difficle, the most common cause of diarrhea among hospital patients, was discovered in 1978. Recently, at one UK hospital, 12 patients have died and 300 have been infected. This infection, usually affects the elderly, and can prove fatal if antibiotic treatment fails to kill all the spores in the gut.

Health experts agree that strict hygiene measures have to be introduced to stop the bug from spreading among patients. Clostridium difficile is very difficult to eradicate from the ward environment, which means it's easy for other patients to become infected.

Recent developments on Probiotics have been shown to prevent and control Clostridium difficile, diarrhea after the use of antibiotics. Probiotics reduce the number of this pathogen and the production of toxins which cause inflammation within the gut.

Twenty percent of people who take a course of antibiotics suffer from diarrhea.

Antibiotics are taken for a variety of bacterial infection in order to kill the bacteria and prevent disease. However at the same time as killing pathogenic bacteria, antibiotics may also kill the beneficial bacteria within the gut.

A reduction in the number of beneficial bacteria in the gut causes an imbalance in the microflora and can allow pathogenic bacteria to increase. The severity of antibiotic associated diarrhea may lead to a more serious condition with symptoms such as dehydration and abdominal pain.

A new multistrain-strain Probiotics, Protexin Natural Care, developed from England, was recently introduced during a recent Philippine Medical Association convention. Probiotics are used to control or prevent antibiotic associated diarrhea because they restore the beneficial bacteria which are lost during antibiotic therapy. This in turn helps prevent colonization of the bad bacteria, which can cause diarrhea. Other benefits of Probiotics are improved digestion, relief from flatulence, bloating, constipation and stimulation of intestinal immune response.

For more information on Protexin, please call 02-809-9848 or visit the website www.prebiotech.net.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Diet for gums

MY DENTIST TOLD me to have a balanced diet for better gums. What does she mean?—Tesa S.

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E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.

Good news for high blood, diabetic patients

STOCKHOLM—PATIENTS WITH HIGH BLOOD pressure and diabetes, who are overweight, may get more benefit from taking telmisartan, a blood pressure lowering agent, recent studies say.

Telmisartan's ability to partially activate peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor (PPAR) gamma, will help improve the way the body responds to insulin. As a result, telmisartan can help better control metabolic diseases such as diabetes and dyslipidemia that often accompany hypertension. PPAR is one of the body's chemical messengers known to have an important role in stimulating natural bodily processes, such as blood sugar control and fat buildup and breakdown.

Uniquely beneficial effect

"These preclinical findings are very exciting and suggest telmisartan may have a uniquely beneficial metabolic effect," according to Dr. Theodore Kurtz, professor at the University of California, USA.

Said Dr. Kurtz: "We have effective treatments for some of the individual components of metabolic syndrome, such as high blood pressure, but we need to tackle the different risk factors concurrently. These are very early days but given the major impact of the metabolic syndrome on cardiovascular morbidity and mortality, any treatment that could tackle more than one of the components of metabolic syndrome would provide a huge advantage to patients and physicians in the fight against cardiovascular disease."

Telmisartan belongs to the newest class of blood pressure-lowering medicines known as angiotension II receptor blockers (ARBs). The telmisartan molecule is structurally similar to PPAR activator, pioglitazone, which as been approved for the treatment of type 2 diabetes. Data demonstrate that telmisartan has a beneficial effect on insulin resistance and blood lipids, independent of its blood pressure-lowering effect.

Stronger PPAR activator

Preclinical studies by Schupp et al. and Kurtz et al. showed telmisartan is a stronger PPAR activator compared to other commercially available ARBs. Moreover, a study reported by Benson et al., revealed that telmisartan significantly reduced blood glucose levels and triglycerides (harmful blood lipids) after five weeks compared with another ARB, losartan. Insulin levels also tended to be lower in the telmisartan group compared with the losartan group.

"We now need to investigate these effects further in a large-scale trial," Professor Kurtz concluded. The potential effects of telmisartan for preventing new onset diabetes and cardiovascular disease are being assessed in the large-scale clinical trial Ontarget (Ongoing Telmisartan Alone and in combination with Ramipril Global End point Trial) program. Telmisartan was discovered and developed by Boehringer Ingelheim, Germany.

SCISCOPE

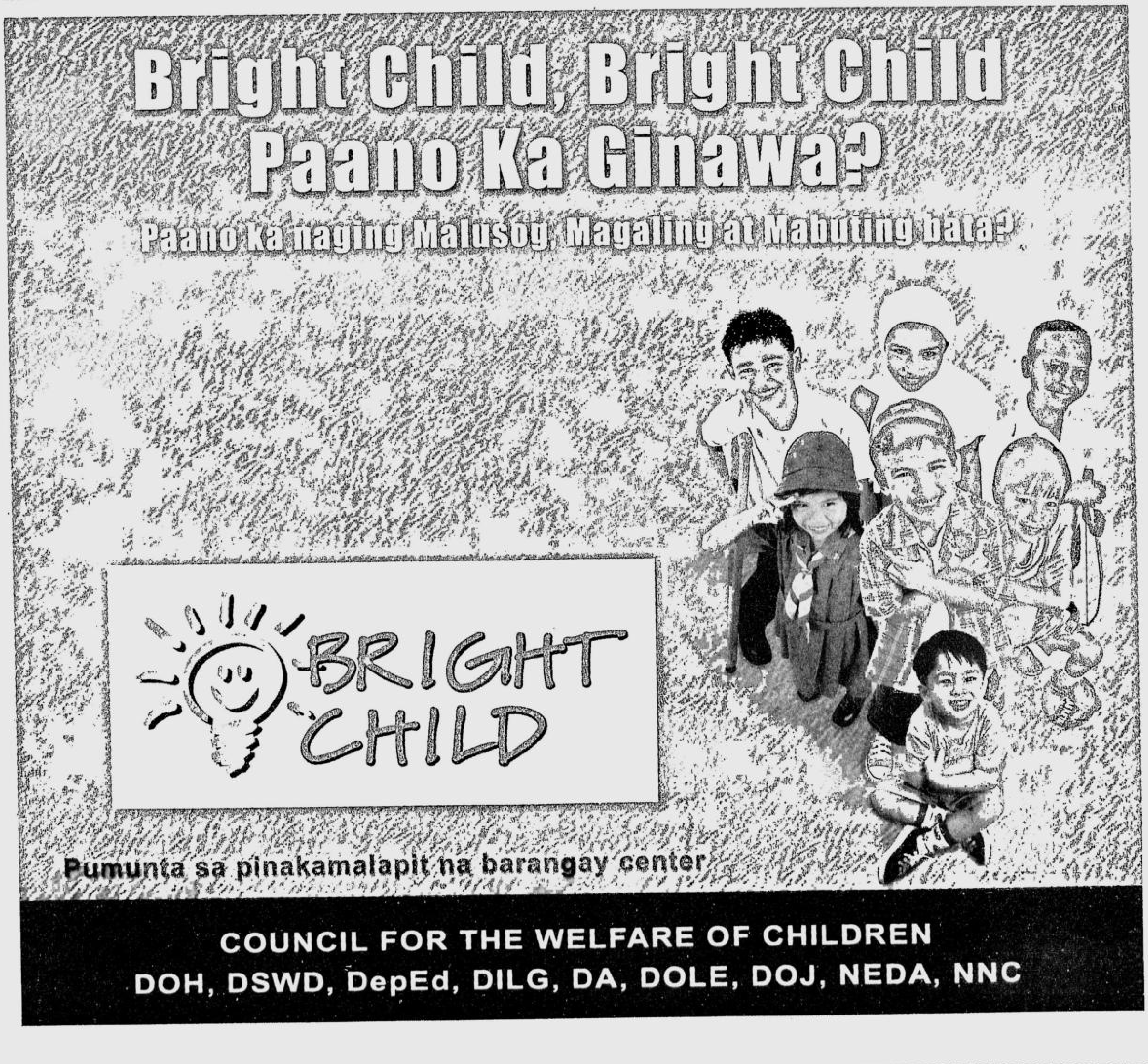
Nurses depart for US

PROVIDING A BETTER LIFE FOR THEIR FAMILIES through the financial gains and professional enhancement of working abroad are often offset by the concerns of leaving home.

Four such nurses are scheduled to leave this last quarter of the year, with more than 100 of their colleagues, to work for HCCA (Health Care Corp. of America) International in the United States which in turn will field them in various American Hospitals.

Although all these HCCA-prepared nurses are happy and excited, they are leaving with heavy hearts.

They are Normita Rojo, a former military nurse at the V. Luna Hospital who worked there for 10 years; Sarah Hobayan, a former PGH Nurse who is leaving behind a baby daughter and her doctor-fiancé; Theresa Arugay a former nurse at the Philippine Heart Center whose husband and daughter will follow her in the next six months; and Christine Pascual, a former nurse at St. Luke's Hospital who is newly married but whose husband will join her in the US in two months.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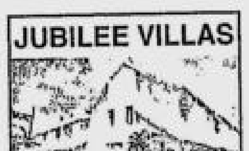

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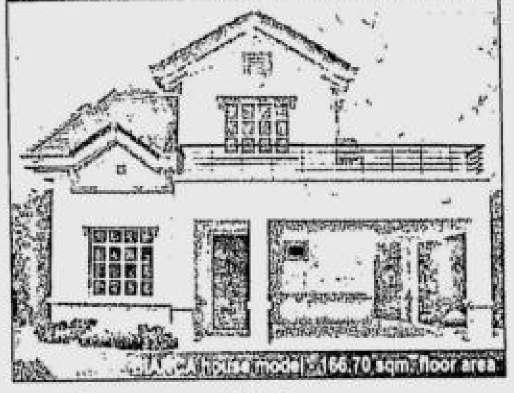

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The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on December 16, 2005, 2:00 p.m., 2nd Floor of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (SQ.M)	LOCATION	FLOOR PRICE
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
PFGT1	House and Lot (TCT No. 379263)	177	Lot 14 Blk. 25, Vista Verde North Executive Village, Caloocan City	P 863,500.00
PFGT2	House and Lot (TCT No. T-98031)	42	Lot 4 Blk. 8, Selina St., Villa Jacinta Townhomes, Brgy. Pulang Lupa Dos, Las Piñas City	P 795,500.00
BULACAN				
PFGT5	House and Lot (TCT No. T-456046 (M)	240	Bo. Sta. Clara now Bo. Lalakhan, Sta. Maria	P 434,600.00
CAVITE				
PFGT3	House and Lot (TCT No. T-1109644)	104	Lot 3 Blk. 11, Redwood St., Acacia Homes, Bangkal, Dasmariñas	P 417,600.00
PFGT7	House and Lot (TCT No. T-884424)	193	Lot 13 Blk. 7, Palo Alto St., Habay 1, Bacoor	P 772,000.00
PFGT8	House and Lot (TCT No. T-645759)	164	Lot 44 Blk. 2, Juliard Homes II, Medicion 1st, Imus	P 834,000.00
MISAMIS ORIENTAL				
AM-JA-300	Institutional lot with school buildings, & other structures, office equipment, furniture & fixtures	35,046	Bo. Barra, Opol	P 36,151,800.00
ORIENTAL MINDORO				
PFGT6	House and Lot (TCT No. T-133546)	353	Lot 29 Blk. 5, G. Lopez Subd., Brgy. Nacoco, Calapan City	P 673,800.00
PAGADIAN				
PFGT4	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-29606)	298	Lot 4 Blk. 3, Sto. Niño District, Pagadian City	P 476,800.00
RIZAL				
AM-CP-301	Four (4) contiguous parcels of land (TCT Nos. M-111034, M-111036, M-111037 & M-4200) with recreation center/cockpit & other improvements	66,062	Bo. Bulao, Teresa	P 48,845,700.00
CHATTELS				
AM-EL-299	M/V "Super 85", an 85-footer motorized passenger ferry vessel, twin engine, twin propelled Catamaran type, 185 persons capacity with machinery and navigational equipment, presently berthed at Brgy. Kabilang Gulod, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro			P 6,400,000.00
PFGT9	1,3 GX 4-Door Nissan Senira Sedan Model 2003 color silver, manual transmission, power steering, gasoline fuel with Plate No. XLL 205 at DBP inner court			P 430,600.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:
1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers: 892-1566 / 893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158 / 2159 for Code starting with AM and 815-1608 or 818-9511 local 2715 for PFGT.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – December 9 & 10, 2005)

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1% w/out taking car 7262780

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/o taking Car 7228942-43

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/o taking car 7723810/12

2% w/o taking car 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

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BIG GARAGE SALE
Dec. 13-17
(9 am to 5 pm)
CLOTHES • SHOES •
BAGS • FURNITURES
• TOYS • HOME ACCS.
• GOLF CLUBS, ETC.
No. 03 Ponce St.,
San Lorenzo Vill.,
Makati City

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

AN EXTRA JUDICIAL PARTITION HAS BEEN FILED BY THE HEIRS OF THE LATE EUSTAQUIO C. IGNACIO WHO DIED INTESTATE ON JAN. 27, 1970, BERNABE I. SANTOS WHO DIED INTESTATE ON JULY 23, 1992, AND BENJAMIN C. DAVID WHO DIED INTESTATE ON AUGUST 20, 2002, ALL AT TAGUIG METRO MANILA LEAVING SIX (6) PARCELS OF LAND DESCRIBED AS TCT NOS 20033R, 20034R, 20035R, 20036R, AND 20037R, ALL SITUATED AT PULONG MABA PORAC, PAMPANGA. SWORN TO BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC PORFORIO M. BAUTISTA OF PARANAQUE CITY UNDER DOC. # 135 PAGE # 28 BOOK # 1 SERIES OF 2003. (PDI - DEC. 10, 17 & 24, 2005)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Yukio Hamano has been extrajudicially settled by his only heir, Tadashi Hamano before Notary Public of Paranaque City, Tomas S. Macasaet, Sr., as per Doc#67, Page#14, Book#I; Series of 2005. (PDI - Nov. 26, Dec. 3 &10, 2005)

JOB OPENING

We are an authorized Philippine Distributor of leading life safety system. We are currently in search of qualified candidates to support our growing operation for the following position:

- SALES/MARKETING EXECUTIVE
- ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN
- EE/ECE
- OFFICE CLERK
- MESSENGER/DRIVER

Interested applicants may call Mr. Mar Uy at 426-4221 or 426-4241

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that CHINA BANKING CORP. Cert. No. 16169 for TWO HUNDRED FIFTEEN (215) shares issued in the name of INVESTORS SECURITIES, INC. was reported lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.

(PDI – Dec. 10, 17 & 24, 2005)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Estate of the late Lilia M. Roque consisting of her rights and interests on real properties covered by TCT Nos. 420182 and 70667 located at Merville Park and Barrio Ibayo, Paranaque City respectively, was extrajudicially distributed among her heirs, Honesto P. Roque, Honesto Roque Jr., Hernani Roque, Joy Roque Hensey & Maria Juvy R. Libao, by means of a public instrument executed on Nov. 30, 2005 and ratified before Atty. Edgar F. Chavez, Notary Public, for and in Makati City as per Document No. 109, Page No. 23, Book No. I, Series of 2005.
(PDI-Dec. 3, 10 & 17, 2005)

PERSONAL

HOLY SPIRIT, THANK YOU!

ST. CLAIRE, THANK YOU!

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY
Venture Capital Required, Australian Co. Investment required 200,000 U.S. Very High Returns. Manufacturing Industry in the Philippines or Asia would be an advantage. 20% Share holding offered to the right investor. Our rep will be in Manila until 8th Jan. 2006. For further details contact BRETT on +61 298924277 or Email to salerack@optusnet.com.au

MLM Visit www.lamagel.com/rich Tess / Cesar 831-1112 0917-8838088

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Day before publication

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
Funeral Home and Crematory
845-2334 to 38; 845-2440

ROGER BRYAN WILSON

(April 24, 1944 - December 6, 2005)

Died in the Grace of our Lord at the age of 61.

His bereaved family
Wife: **Zenaida**
Children: **Sophie, Matthew, Alice**
Son & Daughter-in-law: **Adrienne Jones, Charlotte Wilson**
Sister: **Baroness Frances di Piro**
Brother: **Duncan**
Grandchildren: **Lily** and **Boris**

Request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.
His remains lie in state at the Don Bosco Church, Faith Chapel, Makati.

Cremation shall follow after the 8:00 AM Mass at the Manila Memorial Park today, December 10, 2005.

VICTOR TIU-LAUREL

Has peacefully returned to his Creator on December 8, 2005 at the age of 95,

his beloved wife **MARIA PAZ** (†), his loving children **FRANCIS & BELLA, HENRY & MARY ANN, CELY & ROBERT, SUSAN & TOTOY, HENSON & MILA, HERMAN & TIKS, HARRY & JOSIE, HERBERT & JEIL, HOWARD & NANETTE, JUDY,** grandchildren, & great-grandchildren mourn his passing and wish him eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco, Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Mckinley Road, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 14, 2005, at the Heritage Memorial Park in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Please omit flowers

SOLDIER, LAWYER, PUBLIC SERVANT
LOVING HUSBAND and FATHER...

JOSE RILLO MACALINCAG

(DECEMBER 23, 1917 – DECEMBER 10, 2004)

IN COMMEMORATION OF HIS ***1st DEATH ANNIVERSARY,*** MASS WILL BE HELD ***TODAY, DECEMBER 10, 2005*** AT ***6:30 P.M.*** AT THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, PINAGLABANAN, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

...PAPA, WE'LL ALWAYS LOVE YOU.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

ENGR. RENATO G. PELAYO

FORMER DIRECTOR OF BLD/DAR AND NCR/DENR

of Candaba, Pampanga and Marikina City

Peacefully joined his Creator on December 8, 2005 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **Rosario (Atchit)**; his sons and daughters-in-law **Tito & Olive, Joel & Jocelle**; grandchildren **Peppi, Gianna, Gianatto, Tristan Hermes** and **Dylan**; brothers **Aspren, Hermes** (†), **Jose, Prospero** (†) and **Nonong**; sisters **Edda** (†), **Nelia** and **Lirio** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Renato's remains lie in state at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Church, Doña Juana Rodriguez Ave., Broadway, New Manila, Q.C.

Interment will be on Sunday, December 11, 2005 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Loyola Marikina City.

we design **OBITUARIES** for free

LETICIA PELIMIANO GAA

Peacefully joined our Creator on 07 December 2005 at the age of 66.

Her bereaved husband **Francisco**; children **Pinky, Bambi & Sonny, Rev. Fr. James, Amiel & Rachelle**; grandchildren **Mara, Samantha, Zoe, Zach**; great grandchild **Giorgia** request the readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her body lies in state at the Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish at Philam Homes, West Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on 13 December 2005, Tuesday at Good Shepherd Cathedral, Regalado Avenue, Fairview Park, Quezon City. Burial Mass will be at 3:00 pm.

To Her Never Ending Love...
My Dearest Mother

Clara Borromeo Routis

Has died a natural death at the age of 96 ½.

Mass will be held at
San Bartolome de Novaliches Parish
on December 12, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.

Viewing is at 23 Eden Street, San Agustin, Novaliches, Q. C.
until December 12, 2005, 10:30 a.m.

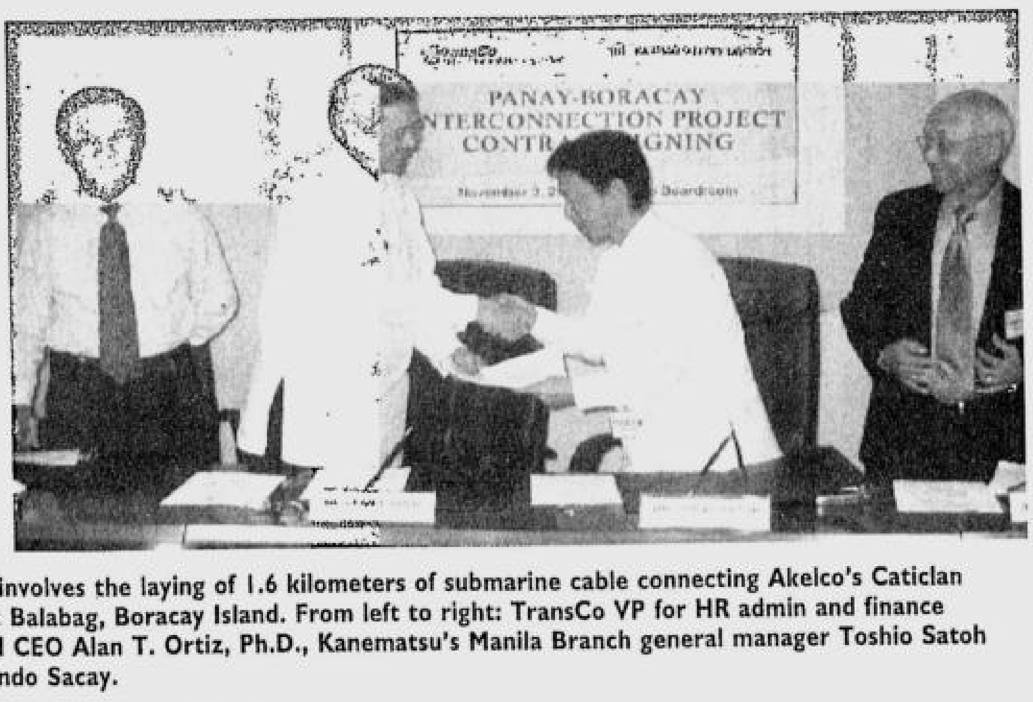
An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES
OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS

CLASSIFIEDS

TRANSCO & KANEMATSU CONTRACT SIGNING



Efforts by the National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) to secure power supply in the country's premiere tourist destination of Boracay reached a major milestone with the recent signing of the contract with Kanematsu Corp. for the Panay-Boracay Interconnection Project. TransCo president Alan Ortiz said that the project will not only provide Boracay with adequate and reliable electricity to meet its steeply rising demand but will also help preserve Boracay's environment since electricity from the submarine cables would soon replace some 12-15 megawatts produced by diesel generators in the island. The interconnection project, which is expected to be completed in March 2006 involves the laying of 1.6 kilometers of submarine cable connecting Akelco's Caticlan substation in Panay to another substation at Balabag, Boracay Island. From left to right: TransCo VP for HR admin and finance Alexander B. Cortez, TransCo president and CEO Alan T. Ortiz, Ph.D., Kanematsu's Manila Branch general manager Toshio Satoh and Boracay Foundation Inc. chair. Dr. Orlando Sacay.

GRAND LAUNCHING

Finance Secretary Gary Teves was the Guest of Honor at the Grand Launching of MAZDA MAKATI in Pasong Tamo. Mazda Makati is the newest, biggest and the best showroom among the Mazda Network, in 35 countries according to Mr. Wil Angove, Managing Director of Mazda ASEAN Operations. Shown in photo (from left) are Lawyer Miguel Varela, President of Philippines, Inc., Ambassador Jose Romero, Sergio Ortiz-Luis, Jr., chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), Annie Tan-Yee, Mazda Makati Director, Sec. Teves, Jesus Pineda, chair of Philippines, Inc. and Antonio Lopa (partly hidden).

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Surigao del Sur
City of Bislig

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Bislig, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of brand new Hydraulic Excavator with the following specifications:

Brief Description : 1 Unit Hydraulic Excavator (Brand New) with Bucket Capacity of 0.5 to 0.8 cu.m. with engine capacity of no less than 85 hp. Turbo charged with breaker piping attachment maximum digging reach from 7 to 8 meters from the ground, 500 to 600 mm triple grouser shoes, all weather steel cab fully air-conditioned with all-around visibility, safety glass windows, wide screen wiper, lockable doors, fully adjustable reclining seat, standard tools kit and manual with breaker attachment. F.O.B. BISLIG CITY.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its IRR-A.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. ELIGIBILITY SCREENING	
a. Issuance of Eligibility Documents	8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. December 19-21, 2005 at the BAC Secretariat – CPDO, City Hall, Bislig City
b. Deadline of Submission of the accomplished eligibility documents / requirements	5:00 p.m. – December 22, 2005 at the BAC Secretariat – CPDO, City Hall Bislig City
2. Issuance of Bid Documents / RFQ	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – December 27, 2005 at the GSO, City Hall, Bislig City
3. Pre-bid Conference	2:00 p.m. – January 9, 2006 at the City Engineering Office, City Hall, Bislig City
4. Opening of Bids	3:00 p.m. – January 21, 2006 at the City Engineering Office, City Hall, Bislig City

The City Government of Bislig assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BAC of Bislig City reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) **REYDANDE D. AZUCENA**
BAC Chairman - Bislig City

(PDI - December 10 & 17, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Proposed NFA Central Office Renovation Works

The *National Food Authority through its COF for 2005* intends to apply the sum of **PESOS: NINETEEN MILLION THREE HUNDRED SEVEN THOUSAND SEVEN PESOS AND 40/100 ONLY (P19,307,007.40)** being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Renovation of the Proposed NFA Central Office*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *National Food Authority* now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for *Renovation of the Proposed NFA Central Office*. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before *December 19, 2005, 5:00 p.m.* at National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg., *101 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City* and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents *December 21, 2005, 10:00 a.m.* at *BAC Secretariat*, National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg., *101 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City*. Only those Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act." and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from *BAC Secretariat*, National Food Authority, Matimyas Bldg., *101 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.* on *December 22, to 23, 2005.*

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by eligible bidders on the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P20,000.00. The method of payment will be in cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidder or his authorized representative.

The National Food Authority will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on *December 27, 2005, 10:00 a.m.* at the following address: National Food Authority Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., *101 E. Rodriguez Ave., Quezon City.*

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 9:45 a.m. on *January 9, 2006*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One Percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *January 9, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

1. *Interested bidders must have relevant experience in installation of gypsum board ceiling, electrical rewiring with provision for air conditioning units, lighting and other auxiliary requirements, and installation of vinyl tiles.*
2. Renovation works must be completed in 90 calendar days from receipt of Notice to Proceed.
3. The *National Food Authority* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity : *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons : *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address : *101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone No. : *(632) 712-3341 loc. 8923 or 8520*
E-mail Address : *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Fax No. : *(632) 712-0454*
Website : *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair

(PDI - Dec. 3 & 10, 2005)

PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY
7th & 8th Floors, Legaspi Towers 200 Bldg., 107 Paseo de Roxas St., Legaspi Village, 1226 City of Makati
Tel. Nos. (02) 817-4711 to 13; (02) 813-1441 to 45 • Facsimile No. (02) 816-2002
Website: www.pea.gov.ph • Email: info@pea.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : **Security Services for PRA Properties**
Location : **7F Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City**
Brief Description : **Engage the services of a security agency who shall secure and protect the PRA Office and its various properties**
Approved Budget for the Contract : **Php 12,710,000.00**
Contract Duration : **Twelve (12) Months**

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar project within the last **three (3) years** with amount not less than Php 12,710,000.00, and should have key personnel and equipment (i.e. whether owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum requirements for logistical support is included in the Terms of Reference. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall be undertaken using the non-discretionary **"pass/fail"** criteria. Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Below is the schedule of activities:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 12 – 19, 2005
2. Pre-Bid Conference	December 20, 2005
3. Opening of Bids	January 5, 2006
4. Bid Evaluation	January 6 – 18, 2006
5. Post Qualification	January 19 – 25, 2006
6. Notice of Award	February 9, 2006

Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Twelve Thousand Seven Hundred Ten Pesos (Php 12,710.00)** to the Philippine Reclamation Authority Cashier.

The Philippine Reclamation Authority assumes no responsibilities whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(SGD) **JOSEFINA L. CASTRO**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI--Dec. 10 & 17, 2005)

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dti

NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRANTS

PURSUANT TO SECTION 12 (A) OF DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO.15 SERIES OF 1990, THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY THROUGH THE BUREAU OF TRADE REGULATION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION, CANCELS FROM THE RECORD ALL BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATIONS WHICH EXPIRED AS OF JUNE 30, 2005 EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2006.

UNDER THE BUSINESS NAME LAW (ACT NO. 3883), AS AMENDED, OWNERS OR PROPRIETORS SHOULD RENEW THEIR BUSINESS NAME REGISTRATION UPON EXPIRATION THEREOF.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT SERVES AS A FORMAL NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED.

FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE.

10 December 2005, Makati City

VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Director, BTRCP

(PDI - Dec. 10, 2005)

WANTED SEAMEN !!!

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(Salary – US$ 4,245 per month)

SECOND OFFICER
(Salary – US$ 2,698 per month)

THIRD OFFICER
(Salary – US$ 2,335 per month)

CHIEF ENGINEER
(Salary – US$ 6,039 per month)

1ST ASST. ENGINEER
(Salary – US$ 4,000 per month)

2ND ASST. ENGINEER
(Salary – US$ 2,698 per month)

3RD ASST. ENGINEER
(Salary – US$ 2,335 per month)

ELECTRICIAN
(Salary – US$ 2,698 per month)

PUMPMAN
(Salary – US$ 1,737 per month)

FITTER
(Salary – US$ 1,737 per month)

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MCUMAA homecoming, post grad course

THE MANILA CENTER UNIVERSITY Medical Alumni Association (MCUMMA) will hold its Annual Alumni Homecoming and 43rd Post-graduate Course on December 11 at the Discovery Suites in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Hosted by the Silver Jubilarians (Batch '80), the affair with its theme "MCUMAA: Making a Difference," will be keynoted by Dr. Ricardo D. Fulgencio, chairman of the Professional Regulation Commission's Board of Medicine and a member of class '74, and will feature the recognition and awarding of medallions to the jubilarians, 39th Filemon D. Tanchoco Memorial Lecture by Dr. Jose Antonio V. Bouffard, member of class '80, 43rd Post Graduate Course (Theme: "Life After 50") scientific lectures by Dr. Socouer M. Oblepias ("Keeping Your Skin Flawless"), Dr. Marcelino Durante ("Avoiding By-Pass Surgery"), Dr. Noel Raymundo ("Sex After 50"), and Dr. Vicky Belo ("How to Take 10 Years of Your Age"), fellowship night to be highlighted by the awarding ceremony for the outstanding alumni for their exceptional professional achievements, exemplary character, and contribution to national and institutional aspirations. On the following day, December 12, there will be a "Balik-Eskwela" activity at the MCU Campus in Caloocan City. This year's affair is led by Dr. Lucita P. Aguilar, member of Class '62 and president of MCUMAA, Dr. Elizabeth R. Reyes, member of Class '83 and over-all chairman of the Organizing Committee, and Dr. Vic D. Perlas, Jr., Batch '80 representative. For particulars, please contact Drs. Lucita Aguilar and Elizabeth Reyes or Ellen Escamilla at 367-2031 loc. 216 or Telefax 367-2249.

DBP
Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Nineteen (19) units brand new 50TR Capacity Water-Cooled Screw Type Packaged Air-Conditioners with Semi-Hermitic Compressor using either Refrigerant 22, 407, and 134a Gas including its auxiliaries and the Rehabilitation/Improvement of Supply and Return Duct System of the DBP Head Office Building	**P41,000,000.00**
*** Bids received in excess of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.**	

Contract Completion: 180 calendar days from date of award of contract
Schedule of Activities:

Particulars	Date	Venue
Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) and Application for Eligibility	January 3, 2006 (Tuesday) up to 4:30 p.m.	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Eligibility Requirement Documents	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of January 11, 2006 (Wednesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Eligibility Requirement Documents (Bidders are encouraged to witness the opening)	January 11, 2006 (Wednesday) at 9:30 p.m.	OPS Conference Room, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Issuance of Bid Data Sheet/Scope of Work	January 12-13, 2006	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Pre-Bidding Conference	January 16, 2006 (Monday) at 9:00 a.m.	PSM, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Submission of Technical and Financial Proposals of Eligible Bidders	"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of January 31, 2006 (Tuesday)	BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City
Opening of Technical and Financial Proposals of Eligible Bidders (Bidders are encouraged to witness the opening)	January 31, 2006 (Tuesday) at 9:30 a.m.	OPS Conference Room 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City

DBP calls for the submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the above project. Prospective Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have supplied and installed screw-type packaged airconditioners within the last three (3) years with a value at least fifty percent (50%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Requirements Documents. Interested bidders must submit their LOI on or before **January 3, 2006 (Tuesday) at the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City** and secure the eligibility requirements.

Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis and only those Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents: **"On or before" 9:00 a.m. of January 11, 2006 (Wednesday) at the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City.**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

The contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification. Interested parties may secure the Eligibility Requirement Forms from the BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, DBP Building, Makati City or you may download these forms at **www.devbankphil.com.ph** and at the Electronic Procurement Service of the Department of Budget and Management. A non-refundable fee of Php20,000.00 will be charged to all eligible bidders.

The Bank reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further inquiries, please call telephone numbers 8125702 / 8189511 loc. 2610.

Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Dec 10 & 17, 2005)

Form Number: SF-GOOD-05
Republic of the Philippines
Province of Iloilo
Iloilo Provincial Government

Project Reference Number ____
Purchase of Heavy Equipment
Iloilo Provincial Government

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

BID NO. B-4260

The **ILOILO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Purchase of Heavy Equipments
Location : Iloilo Rehabilitation Center, Iloilo City
Brief Description : Heavy Equipments
3 units Brand New Road Grader
2 units Brand New Pay Loader
1 unit Brand New Back Hoe Loader
10 units Brand New Dump Trucks

Approved Budget for the Contract : P96,275,110.00
Contract Duration :
Delivery Period : Six (6) months after the opening of the Province of Iloilo, Letter of Credit with the Land Bank of the Philippines, Iloilo City Branch.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with and amount of at least 50% of the proposed project of bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest-calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 23-27, 2005
2. Pre-bid Conference	January 3, 2006
3. Opening of Bids	January 17, 2006 @ 10:00 a.m.
4. Bid Evaluation	January 17-20, 2006
5. Post-qualification	January 20-25, 2006
6. Notice of Award	January 27, 2006

Bid Documents will be available only to the prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of One Thousand Pesos (PhP1,000.00) to the Cashier.

The **Iloilo Provincial Government** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **RAMIE S. SALCEDO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Dec. 10 & 17, 2005)

NFA 'losses' are gains for rice farmers, consumers

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) STRESSED THAT whatever losses it incurs in its day-to-day operations are actually gains for the rice farmers who continue to enjoy having a ready market at a reasonable price for their produce, and the consumers who have continuous access to quality but low-priced rice in the market. NFA Administrator Gregorio Y. Tan Jr. explained that while the NFA had been effectively performing the mandates of food security and supply and price stabilization over the past 33 years, it will continue to incur losses as long as the government will not provide the agency sufficient funds for its operational costs to subsidize the price of palay at the farmgate and rice at the consumers' level. Tan added that while the NFA's subsidy allocation had continuously been whittled down over the past 10 years, it was even required to pay a 50-percent tariff on its rice imports since 2002, causing the agency to further bleed financially. About 86 percent of NFA's losses in the past three years went to tariff duties (68%) and interest cost (16%) of borrowings from financial institutions to pay for the tariff. What is ironic, Tan said, is that people expect the NFA to earn income as a government corporation. But while corporations are created mainly to make profit, he said, the nature of NFA's operations is no different from other social-oriented agencies like the social service and welfare department. Equally important to price and supply stabilization is the NFA's mandate of ensuring national food security. This means the agency must maintain a 15-day buffer stock of rice at any given time, in order for the government to quickly and effectively respond to any calamities or emergencies that may hit any part of the country.

Tae kwon do champs visit Globe & Gift Gate 3G Express

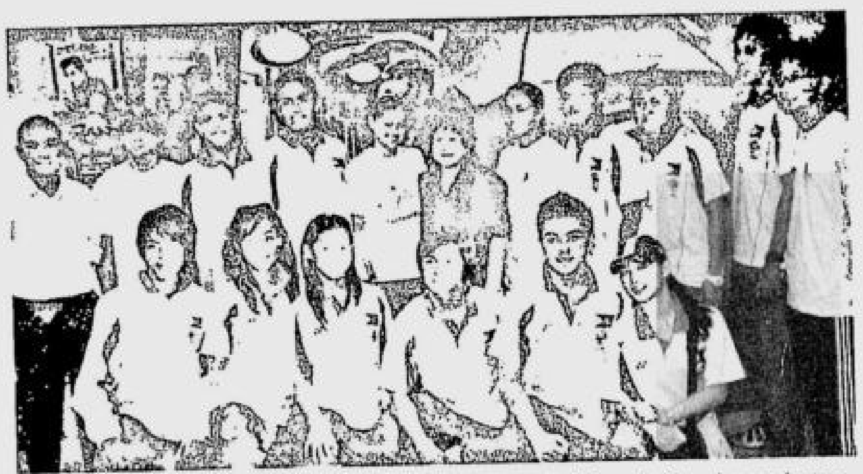
THE PHILIPPINE TAE KWON DO team was cheered on by crowds and fellow athletes as they participated in a motorcade and ticker-tape parade around Metro Manila last Dec. 7. They then took time out to visit the Globe & Gift Gate 3G Express at Glorietta 2, ongoing only until Dec. 11.

Aboard the 3G Express, Globe Platinum, Globe Kababayan, Globe Gizmo, Gentxt and Globe Girlfriends subscribers are entitled to additional discounts on Swatch and Flik Flak merchandise and free photo opportunities. And at the nearby 3G Express Café, open till Dec. 15, all Globe users can enjoy free Globelines broadband Internet surfing. Globe Kababayan subscribers can also get free IDD calls. Plus, subscribers who download the event wallpaper, logo or text card may even avail of a 20 percent discount from various Gift Gate brands like Sanrio, Swatch, Lego, Flikflak and Segue.

When they dropped by the Globe & Gift Gate 3G Express, members of the Philippine tae kwon do team got a glimpse of the future with Globe 3G features such as video calls, enhanced video streaming and high-speed browsing. At the Vault, they walked through an array of luxury Hello Kitty items. Team members also enjoyed going through the Zero G or Zero gravity room while others posed for photos at the Walk of Fame. The jins likewise sat down and had fun with the Lego sets at the end of the Globe & Gift Gate 3G Express. Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos and Globe's Edmond Gozo were on hand to welcome the team and take them through the 3G Express.

From the beginning, contact sports such as tae kwon do were heavily favored to bring in gold medals at the 23rd SEA Games. The RP jins' performance at the SEA Games held in Vietnam two years ago where they won five gold medals were signs of good things to come. And, the continuous training, in the Philippines and South Korea, proved how investing in the talent and skill of Filipino athletes pays off, with the Philippine tae kwon do team gathering six gold, five silver medals. This achievement further contributed to the Philippines' domination of the 23rd SEA Games.

The 3G Express is a collaboration between Globe Handyphone and Gift Gate. The Globe & Gift Gate 3G Express introduces the public to the latest products, services and promos from both Globe and Gift Gate and is open only until this Sunday, Dec. 11.



GLOBE'S Edmond Gozo (extreme left) of the Globe 3G commercial and technical project team and Gift Gate's Virgie Ramos (sixth from left) welcomed members of the Philippine tae kwon do team to the Globe & Gift Gate 3G Express.

FUNDADOR, MAXXIUM PARTNERSHIP

Fundador's Don Beltran Domecq [middle] spent an afternoon with Maxxium's marketing events manager Art Hyndman and Maxxium's marketing director Vince Santos, together with international singer Malou Barry and Ads in Motion's managing director Oscar 'Bingboy' Valera last Nov. 17, at a social gathering called 'Salud' at the Magnum Wine Domain, Greenbelt 2, Makati City. The sixth generation descendant of Pedro Domecq was in Manila to promote its flagship brand, Fundador brandy. This also marked a new partnership with Maxxium Phils Fine Wine and Spirits Inc as the sole and exclusive distributor of the world renowned brandy.

AIA awarded 'No. 1 Used Truck Dealer' for 2005

ASIA INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS INC (AIA) the country's biggest and one of Asia's best trucks and equipment auctioneer has been awarded as the national No. 1 Used Truck Dealer for 2005 by the Asia Pacific Shoppers' Choice Institute, Shoppers' Choice Magazine, Essence Privilege Card, Hernz KPMR Marketing Inc and the Asian-Philippine Association of Marketing Professionals. The award is given to AIA for its excellence in product quality, company reputation, brand recognition and consumer services.

AIA pioneered the live public auctions of trucks and equipment in the Philippines, making AIA unparalleled in the auction industry. Through AIA, buyers in the Asean region can now have access to the widest range, quality and globally-traded trucks and equipment to keep up with the increasing demands of the country's fast-changing business and economic conditions. Having a perfect mix of buyers from practically all walks of life and from different parts of the globe is one of the key determining factors for the success of each auction. AIA's continued success is based on its fundamental ideals - to offer the best alternative for buyers of quality trucks and equipment that are globally competitive and affordable. AIA owe a great deal to the quality of their products, the loyalty of their customers, the commitment of their people and foreign consignors.

You'll find all types of high quality trucks, farm tractors, generator sets, compressors and equipment all in one roof. All units must pass their strict and rigid quality control system. Their next auction is tentatively scheduled on February 2006 that is to be a 4-day Mega Auction, the biggest auction for 2006. For updates and latest stocks, please visit their website, www.asia-intl-auctioneers.com or call their Subic office at (047)252-3333.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR

The Ateneo-Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP) Institute of Banking recently conducted a Corporate Governance and Risk Management Seminar for Banks on an exclusive and customized basis for the members of the board of directors of Citibank Savings. Shown are (from left, front row): Hazel Seow, Nanoo Pamnani, Nina Aguas, Venky Krishnakumar, Carlos Alindada and Teodoro Montecillo; (back row, from left): Agustin Davalos, Leslie Matheson, John Jerrick Juinio, Kalidas Ghose, lawyer Jose Salvador Mirasol, Tomas de Leon (Ateneo-BAP Corporate Governance program director), Jeffrey Choa, Francis Cuyegkeng, Ailene Lintonjua, Noemi Azura and Riza Del Rosario.

SISC high school students' investment hits close to P1M

IN THE EFFORT TO EDUCATE THE YOUTH about the realities of the Philippine and global economy, Southville International School and Colleges (SISC) in Las Piñas City has included in the Upper School curriculum marketing and economics programs that allow the students to be trained in the theories and practical aspects of stock and fixed income investment.

Since 1998, SISC has been dynamically training the students and equipping them with necessary skills, particularly the junior and senior high school students, in the stock market trends and developments, and effective marketing strategies.

"The best thing about the SISC program is that we let our students apply what they've learned in the classroom by investing real money in the Philippine Stock Market. They choose the company that they want to invest in and monitor the changes in their capital. Right now, the students have a total asset of more or less one million pesos," explained Reynaldo Nograles, dean of the BSBA Program in SISC and president of the Capital Market Institute of the Philippines (CMIP).

According to Nograles, SISC is the only high school in the country that allows the student to invest in the local capital market. It is due to this fact that Dr. Genevieve Ledesma-Tan, CEO of SISC was invited to speak about the achievements of its students in the recently concluded Entrepreneurship and Basic Education: Investing in Young Minds Now.

"Southville International School and Colleges hopes to inspire and lead other schools to do the same," Nograles concluded.

JCB'S P1 MILLION CREDIT RELOAD GRAND DRAW

JCB, the first Asia-based credit card, has given away more than P1 million worth of cash credit through its P1 Million JCB Credit Reload promo grand raffle draw held at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati, last Nov. 15. William Nelson So, a Bankard JCB Gold Card user, bagged the P1 Million cash credit grand prize. JCB Credit Card's chief representative, Shunichi Hatano (left) presents the P1 Million JCB Cash Credit Award to Lalaine Juan, Bankard's product management head and representative of grand draw winner William Nelson So. Witnessing the event are Jimmy Ang, JCB assistant marketing manager and Arnie del Rosario, Dept. of Trade Representative (far right).

WHIRLPOOL ORGANIZES LIVELIHOOD SEMINAR

Helping out budding entrepreneurs start their own laundry business was the objective of the recently concluded 'Laundry Business Made Easy' seminar. Whirlpool organized this 2-day seminar inviting resource persons to share their expertise in putting up and maintaining a profitable laundry business. Apart from constantly providing excellent service and top of the line home appliances, Whirlpool continuously supports the needs of individuals venturing into this particular kind of business. Shown is Herman Orilla, laundry consultant for Grist Chem talking about Laundry Operations and Dry Cleaning Procedures.

SOON TO RISE ON THIS

MARIPOSA LODGE CUBAO GROUNDBREAKING

Last Oct. 17, marked the groundbreaking ceremonies for Mariposa Lodge Cubao, soon to rise at Stanford Street, Araneta Center, Cubao. Present during the groundbreaking are (from left): architect Melo Guerrero, contractor Francis Calma, Nino Caruncho, Celeste Caruncho, owner Emil Caruncho III, works engineer Mario Bagunu and executive assistant Nancy Debil. Mariposa Lodge Cubao is the third in the Mariposa Lodge chain of motels and the first offering hotel-type Amenities and accommodations. Other branches are located in Marcos Highway, Santolan, Pasig City and Escarpment Road, Bagong Ilog, Pasig City.

Bits Clips

Araullo HS '71 Party

ARAULLO HIGH SCHOOL Batch 1971 is organizing a Christmas Party on Dec. 16, 5 p.m., at the La Corona Hotel, M.H. del Pilar Street, Ermita, Manila. Please call Blesilda Camacho-de Guzman at 632-6031; Susan Pasia at 927-4342; Beth S. Andres at 897-4798; Myra Guiking-Mendoza at 894-9406 or Lynnette Bernardo-Monillas at 400-7261.

PCS 2005 Homecoming

CALLING ALL PACO CATHOLIC SCHOOL (PCS) Batch 1987 to take part at the PCS 2005 Grand Alumni Homecoming. It will be held tonight at 7 p.m. at the Paco Catholic School grounds. Be there and have fun while reconnecting with former classmates, mentors, schoolmates and friends. For further details you can contact Joumell Borja at 844-8627 or Aileen Cabalang-Alfonzo at 580-8926 (for Batch '87) or the PCS Alumni Association at 563-8780.

Virgin Café December gigs

ALL TUESDAY'S OF DECEMBER ARE AN ATTRACtion at Virgin Café in Tomas Morato as Canadian born and raised semi-regulars 604 performs with a fresh refined sound and style that can appeal to people of all ages and races. Catch also other Virgin Café special gigs for this month: Freestyle on Dec. 15 and 22; Michael Angelo on Dec. 23 and Akafellas on Dec. 28 and Aliyah Parcs and Ntwine on Dec. 29. Call 926-8039 or 811-0725 for other Virgin Cafe inquiries.

Synergy Worldwide confab

THE SYNERGY WORLDWIDE PHILIPPINE CONFERence 2005 will be held on Dec. 13, at Le Pavilion located along Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City. The day promises to be a fun filled one with lots of entertainment and exciting raffle prizes. For more information about the Synergy Worldwide Philippine Conference, please call 830-0805/914-2072 for Metro Manila and Luzon, (032)254-0617 for Visayas and (0882)272-4015/082-227-7796/0917-7060567 for Mindanao.

Nissan's 99X goes Xmas

DESIGNED TO GIVE MAXIMUM VALUE FOR money, Nissan's "99X X-citement X'mas Edition" gives away free chattel mortgage and free insurance, up to about P50,000 depending on the model. Buyers of any X-Trail, Sentra, Cefiro or Serena automatically get P5,000 worth of Petron X-tra Unleaded (or any Petron fuel brand) through the issuance of a Petron Fleet Guard. On Dec. 10 and 11, and 16 and 17, they get a chance to win additional P15,000 worth of gasoline. Dealers participating in NMPI's latest promo are Nissan: Mantrade, Manila, Nissan Gallery Ortigas, Quezon Ave., Westgate, Southwoods, Shaw Center, UN Ave., North Edsa and Commonwealth, Nissan Southwoods and Royce Motors.

ProductFILES

Dr. P makes Xmas merry with the whole family

THERE'S NO OTHER BETTER WAY OF MAKING our Christmas merry, and our New Year happy than spending it with the people who mean the world to us - our family. Our budgets may tighten but believe it or not, this holiday season, everything is affordable except only for one thing. We cannot afford to feel even a bit of worry while celebrating with our family. But no worries. Dr. P is here to make your Holiday season even brighter. Dr. P Adult Diapers prevents growth of harmful germs with its anti-bacteria action. It also has High Speed Channels that actively distribute liquid across the pad so it does not stay in one place. And its Wetness Indicator will signal the right time to change diapers. Dr. P provides utmost protection and comfort for our loved ones in this season of lights, love, and happiness. Dr. P is available in leading supermarkets, groceries and drugstores nationwide.

Chill out with Hapee Outrageous Blue Chill

hapee
OUTRAGEOUS BLUE CHILL

HAPEE OUTRAGEOUS BLUE CHILL IS ESPECIALly manufactured with the adventurous tweens in mind. The new variant complements the upbeat lifestyle of the young, with its ultracool menthol blast component that keeps breath fresh and clean the whole day through. More important is how the Blue gel works deep within. Hapee Blue has Vitamin E that helps moisturize the gums and maximum fluoride protection to fight cavities. And since this oral care product is very affordable, tweens and even 'tweens at heart' can enjoy its loads of benefits minus the guilt of shelling out extra. Hapee Outrageous Blue Chill is available in groceries, supermarkets, and stores nationwide.

Xavier School launches Luceat Lux

THE STORY OF XAVIER SCHOOL
Santos G. Mena, SJ
LUCEAT LUX
LUCEAT LUX
Santos G. Mena, SJ

IN ANTICIPATION OF ITS GOLDEN JUBILEE IN 2006, XAVIER School recently launched the book Luceat Lux, The Story of Xavier School, during cocktails held last Nov. 10. Written by Fr. Santos Mena, S.J. after over ten years of painstaking research, Luceat Lux is a vivid account of Xavier's early years, highlighting the many challenges faced and the major personalities involved during the school's first decade from 1956-1957. More than a history book, this is a storybook of Xavier School, replete with rare archival photos, personal anecdotes and illuminating details from various journals and diaries that make for a highly readable account of the school's beginnings. This handsome hardbound limited edition is both a reading pleasure and priceless memento for all members of the Xavier Community. Those interested may secure their personal copies now. Contact the Golden Jubilee Office of Xavier School at 723-0481 for more details.

Moody's seen to improve outlook on RP

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

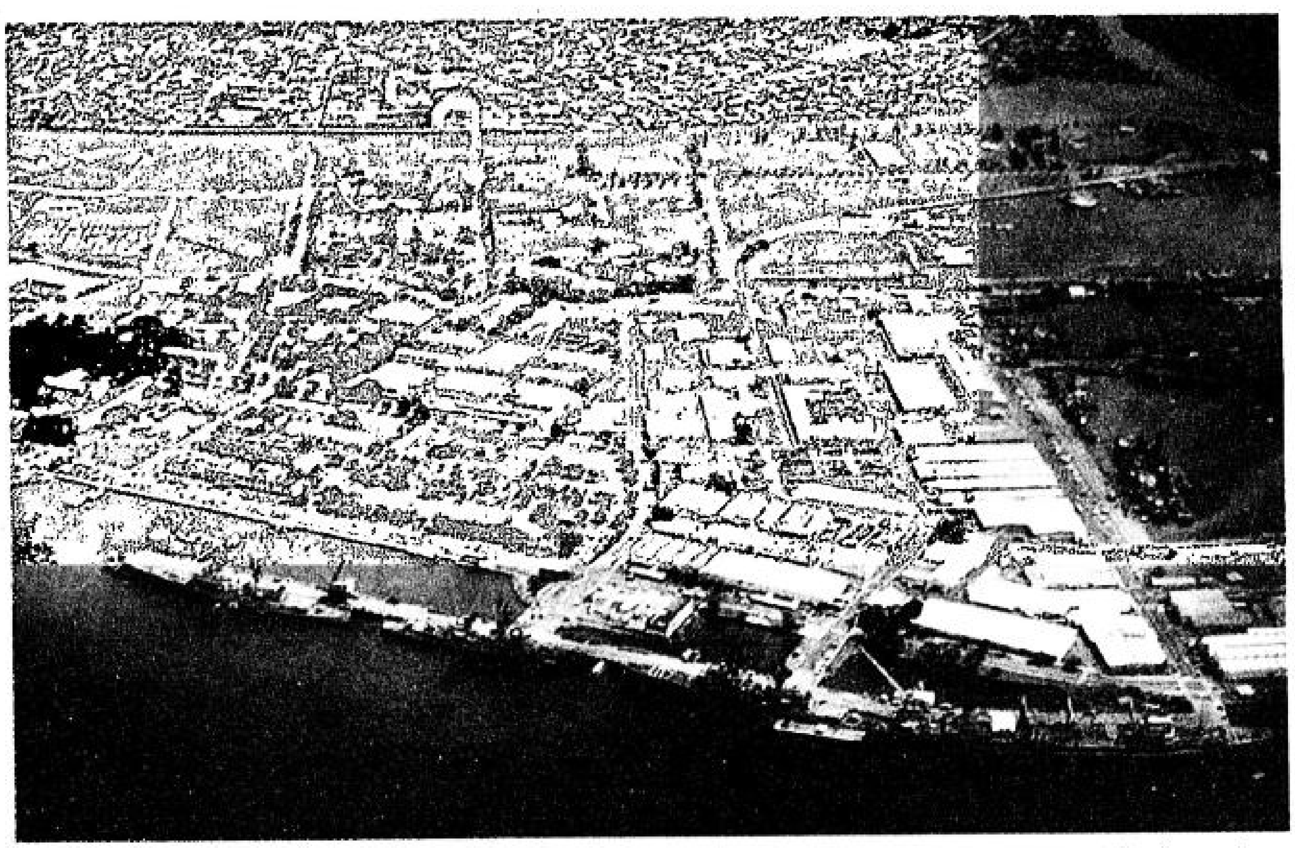
CREDIT RATING AGENCY MOODY'S INvestors Service is expected to improve its outlook on the Philippines to "stable" from "negative" now that the expanded value added tax (VAT) law is in full swing, according to an official of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

BSP investor relations executive director Renato Pizarro yesterday said that Moody's was still concerned over the country's political stability, but for as long as controversies like the proposed changes in the Philippine Constitution would not affect reforms and foreign direct investments, the outlook on the country would remain favorable.

"At the very least there will be no downward pressure," Pizarro said. "If (Moody's) won't change the outlook, it will have a lot of explaining to do to the markets."

On Thursday, Moody's met with key officials from government and the private sector as part of its review of the Philippines for next year's rating.

₱1B earmarked for Subic Freeport



A BIRD'S EYE view of the Subic Freeport. According to a Taiwanese executive, he hopes to see the Philippines and Taiwan turn "into one great economy."

Investments seen to boost RP-Taiwan 'growth corridor'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

TAIWANESE FIRMS HAVE COMMITTED some P1 billion in additional investments at the Subic Freeport, following the agreement between Manila and Taipei to develop a "growth corridor" between the port city of Kaohsiung and the Philippine economic zones in Subic and Clark.

SMBA Chair Feliciano G. Salonga said 10 firms based in Taiwan made the commitment during the visit of Taiwan Economic Minister Mei-Yueh Ho earlier this week.

Ho was in town for the two economies Joint Economic Conference.

"(This) is a clear indication of the continued confidence of the Taiwanese business community to invest in the Philippines, particularly through the Taiwanese Subic Bay Industrial Park," Feliciano said.

According to Joseph Chou, chair of the Taiwanese Subic Bay Development and Management Corp., Taiwan is committed to "making the (two economies) into one great economy."

During the economic minister's visit, the construction of a standard factory building in Subic began.

The 10 additional investments covered five new projects and five expansion projects which will all locate in SBIP.

The five new projects are Kintech Technology Co. Inc.'s P162-million water treatment project; Liankuann Enterprises Co. Ltd.'s P108-million auto radiator tank project; Gei Huan Enterprise Co. Ltd.'s P54-million gas steamer factory; Lee Chia Brush Co. Ltd.'s P54-million industrial steel brush factory, and Gigatek Inc.'s P54-million optical disk facility.

The new projects are expected to create a total of 570 jobs for skilled workers in Olongapo, Bataan and Zambales.

The five projects involve industrial lease agreements covering an area of 4.3 hectares.

Resinoid grinding wheels maker Tailin Abrasives Corp. and office stationery maker Hwa Puh Plastic Co. Ltd. will each invest P162 million, while apparels maker Limech Garments Manufacturing Corp. will infuse some P108 million.

Also, luggage carts maker Hokei Subic Corp. will pour in P140.4 million. Used office machines trader Elltong Subic Inc. will invest an additional P9.1 million.

The expansion projects are expected to create 900 more jobs.

Metrobank to raise up to $125M from securities issuance

By Doris C. Dumlao

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST Co., the country's biggest bank, is raising $100 million to $125 million in core capital through the issuance of hybrid tier 1 notes in the first quarter of 2006.

This developed as the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' Monetary Board yesterday approved a new circular allowing banks to issue debt instruments that would qualify as primary or tier 1 capital, said Nestor Espenilla Jr., BSP deputy governor.

Metrobank, in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, said its board of directors yesterday approved the issuance of hybrid tier 1 securities. The bank will be the first in the Philippines to make use of these instruments to beef up capital.

These are typically debt instruments with long maturity and, under adverse conditions, will not pay any interest to the holder so that both will share in the losses of the bank. In that sense, it is regarded as a form of tier 1 capital.

Hybrid tier 1 capital instruments are different from tier 2, or subordinated debt, in the sense that the former have longer maturity and share in potential losses or profits.

In Southeast Asia, RP leads in broadband tech

By Christine A. Gaylican

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—INTEL CORP., the world's largest chip maker, said the Philippines is at the forefront of broadband technology applications known as Wi-MAX (Wireless Inter-operability for Microwave Access).

Intel already started pilot-testing Wi-MAX with GlobeQuest, the corporate voice and data arm of Innove Communications Inc. in Cavite over a month ago, said Dr. Craig Barrett, Intel chair.

"We are also in discussions with the other telephone companies in the Philippines (including Smart Communications Inc., Bayan Telecommunications Inc. and Digitel) for Wi-MAX," said Peter Choong, Intel Technology Asia Pte. Ltd. director for Southeast Asia.

Barrett on Thursday told reporters that in Malaysia, Intel would start conducting Wi-MAX field trials this December. Trials are also expected to begin in Thailand soon.

At present, 25 to 30 Wi-MAX trials are being conducted around the world.

The company said Wi-MAX, which provides greater broadband connectivity over long distances, would be best delivered in areas previously not served. A single Wi-MAX antenna can range up to 64.4 km with speeds of 70 megabits per second or more.

Intel's d-Asean vision will bring about new standards-based wireless broadband connectivity to the Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand by the end of this year, Barrett said.

Indonesia and Vietnam are expected to be included in 2006.

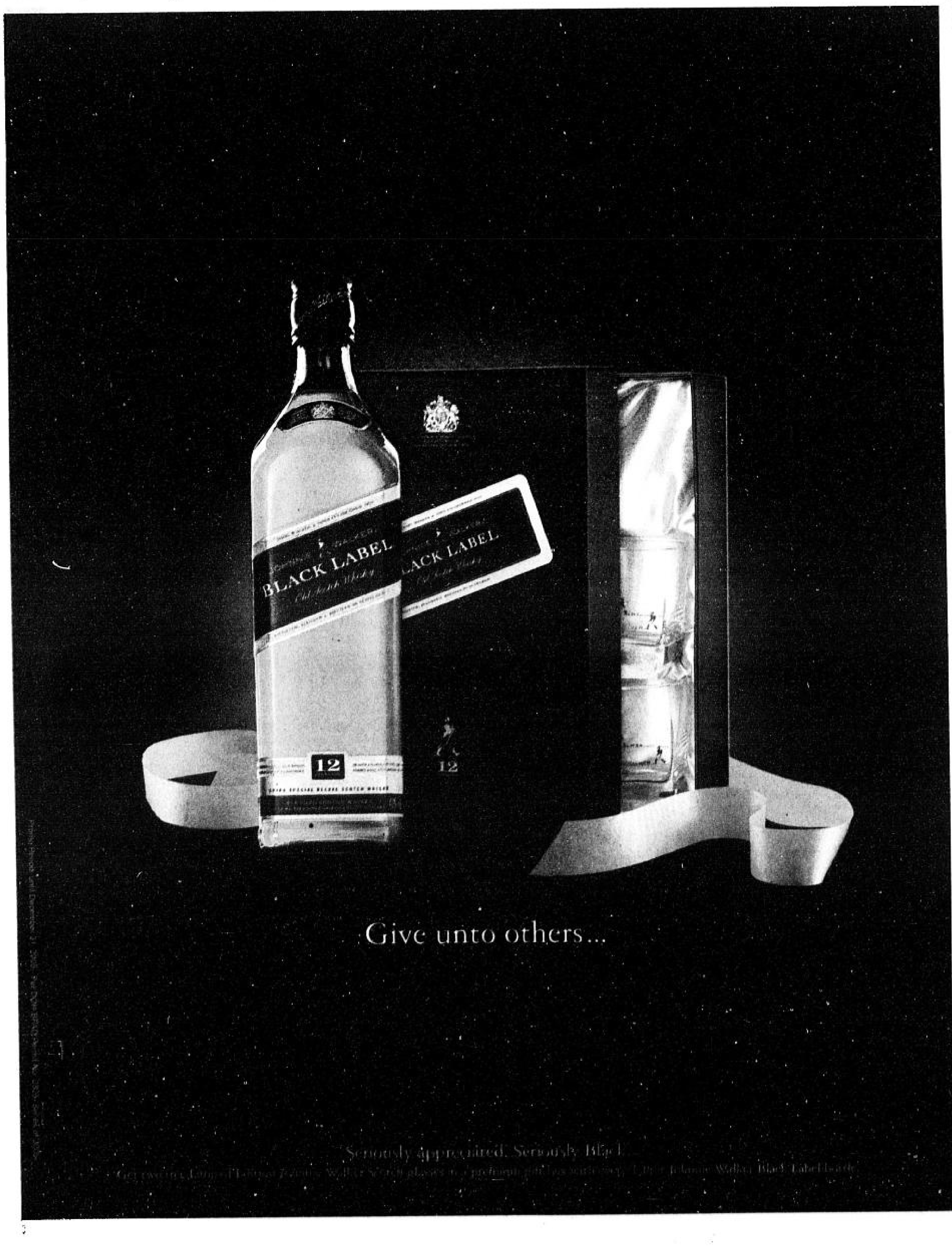
"Our digital agenda for Southeast Asia is to build up broadband infrastructure not just in urban areas but in rural areas as well," Barrett said.

He noted that the Asian market is Intel's largest market.

"The region is important for us from the resource and sales marketing standpoint," he said.

Intel will invest US$230 million in Malaysia as part of a three-year expansion plan, Barrett said.

The project, which will see the creation of a development center and an additional assembly and test site in Kulim in northern Kedah state, will create 2,000 jobs in the region.

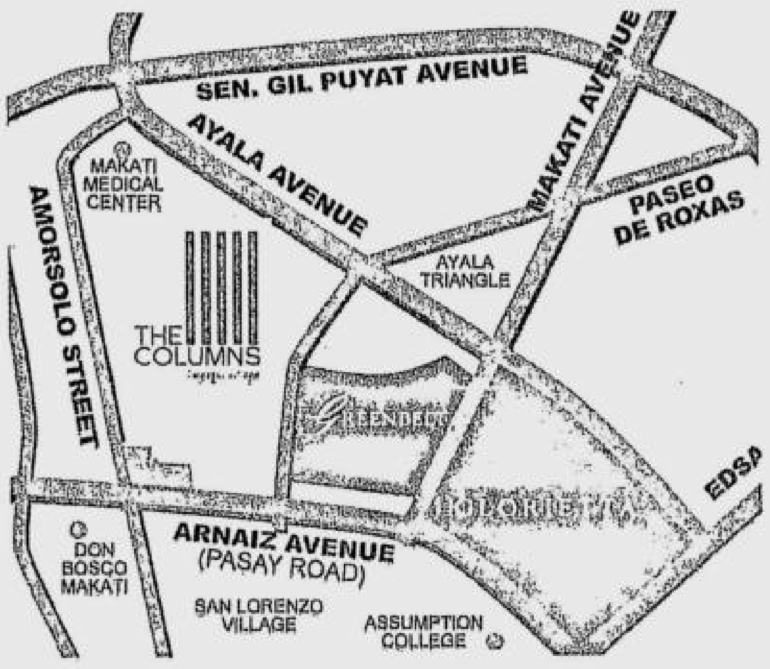


PROPERTY

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

TWIN TOWERS IN LEGAZPI

₱2-B sequel to The Columns features 450-sqm gym



LOCATION map

By Tessa R. Salazar

OUT OF OVER 400 BUILDings in the Makati Central Business District, more than half, or 240, are located in Legazpi Village.

With this strategic location in mind, developer Community Innovations Inc.'s P1.8-billion three-tower, 30-story development of The Columns Ayala Avenue will soon have a repeat in a form of a P2-billion two-tower, 41-story development in Legazpi Village.

The entire lot area of The Columns Ayala Avenue (TCAA) is 8,015 sq m while The Columns Legazpi Village (TCLV) will be 3,023 sq m.

Fitness Hub

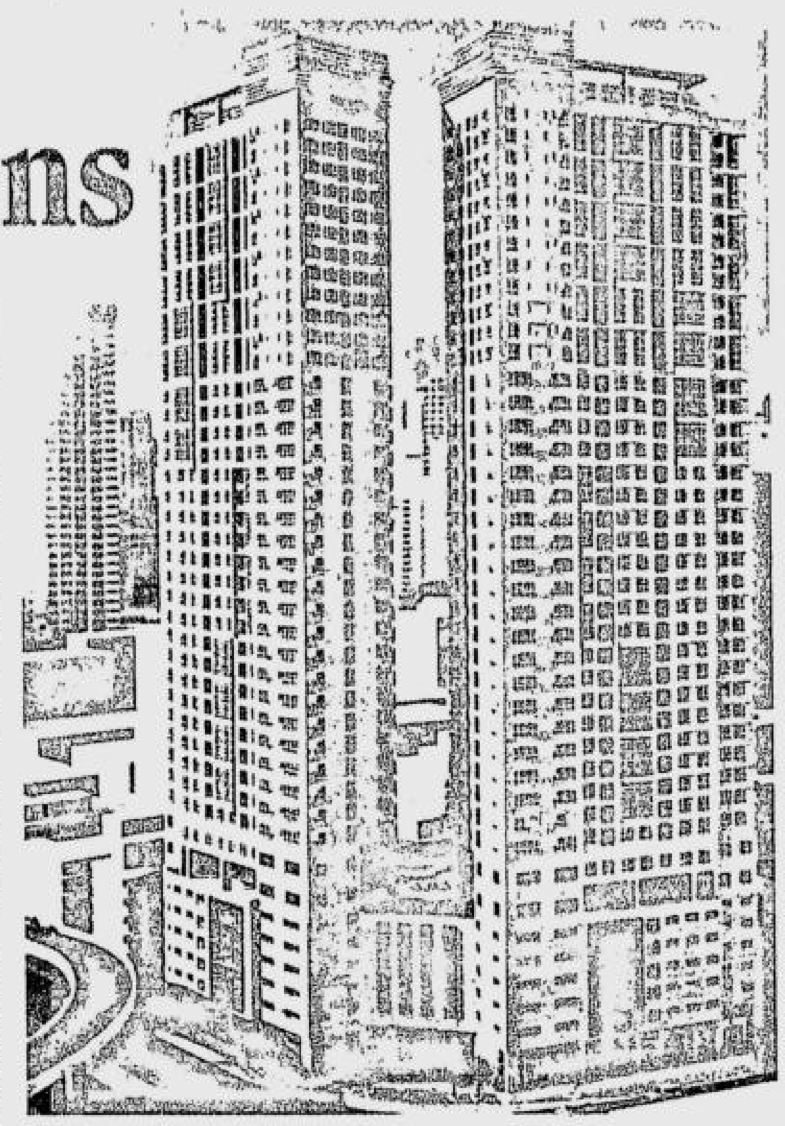
The 450-sq m gym of Columns Legazpi Village, to be called the Fitness Hub, will be the biggest in the industry with a combination of gym, aerobics and spa facilities.

Bobby Dy, president of Community Innovations, described the gym as "professional grade" exclusive to the development—unheard of in a condominium development with sauna, steam rooms and massage areas.

"Look at the number of gyms that have come up. Ten years ago, there weren't that many gyms. Almost every building in the Makati area now has a gym. People are looking for this," he said.

Dan Abando, head of Community Innovations' technical services group cited seven parking levels for TCAA, all above ground, while TCLV would have three basement parking levels

P2-B SEQUEL/ B2-2



THE COLUMNS Legazpi Village

Portofino
THE NEW ALABANG

THE NEAREST, HOTTEST DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTHERN METRO MANILA

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The newest prime address in Metro Manila is right here and now at Portofino. An expansive, masterplanned, masterpiece property, Portofino puts together communities in enclaves, a commercial area, and amenities right beside the Alabang business and commercial district. You have a choice of custom home sites, courtyard homes and *WideLots*®. Portofino is a *Lifescape*™ taken to a grand scale at over 300 hectares within an even larger masterplan of over 1000 hectares. And you won't have to go far. You won't have to wait. A life of luxury in the magnificent Italian style is right here, right now in the development that's emerging as the new capital of the south, the New Alabang—Portofino.

Home to a life of luxury: the elegant, exclusive enclave of Portofino Heights

Gateway to the masterplanned Italian masterpiece development of Portofino

Portofino's Roman bath-inspired pool, one of the amenities enjoyed by residents today

Courtyards of Portofino: a growing neighborhood of quaint courtyard homes

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Sharing a vision

LIVING ARCHITECTURE

Marcos de Guzman Jr.

CANNOT OVEREMPHAize the importance of buying locally made products. Doing so is good for our economy primarily because it creates jobs. Today, I would like to feature someone I met in Cebu, who may be considered as one of our everyday heroes.

Gaylord Dia, manufactures and sells native crafts which may be used as building finishes for interior applications and accent pieces. He makes use of indigenous and readily available materials such as bamboo, oyster shells, and capiz. His designs are elegant and well executed.

Unique system

After a stint in the United States as a Web designer, he decided to come home and start this business. It is nice to know that there are still people who not only have faith in our country but also wish to help *kababayans* (countrymen) develop theirs. He did not set up a factory; instead, he envisioned and set up a system wherein his craftsmen can work on the products in their homes.

Although his business is not new or unique, since there are other suppliers who use the same kinds of material, the uniqueness lies in the main purpose behind his business. He does not run a manufacturing plant or a factory but merely has a network of craftsmen who work from their homes. This means that they can work near or with their families. He offers them a chance for growth and fuels their aspirations and dreams.

Filipino ingenuity

His products may be used in several building applications such as panels, lighting fixtures, counters, toilet fixtures, doors, cabinet accents, and furniture. The technology originated in mainland China, adapted locally and through Filipino ingenuity, more applications were discovered.

His products allow imaginative designers more options to choose from regarding the available local materials, which we can proudly show the world as truly Philippine made.

Gaylord's venture is a concrete example of how we can help the country. What we really need are job makers and people who can turn their dreams into a common vision. Hail entrepreneurs like Gaylord!

You may learn more about Gaylord Dia's products at www.mactantiles.com.

GAYLORD Dia with Marcos de Guzman

Gold lip
bricklay

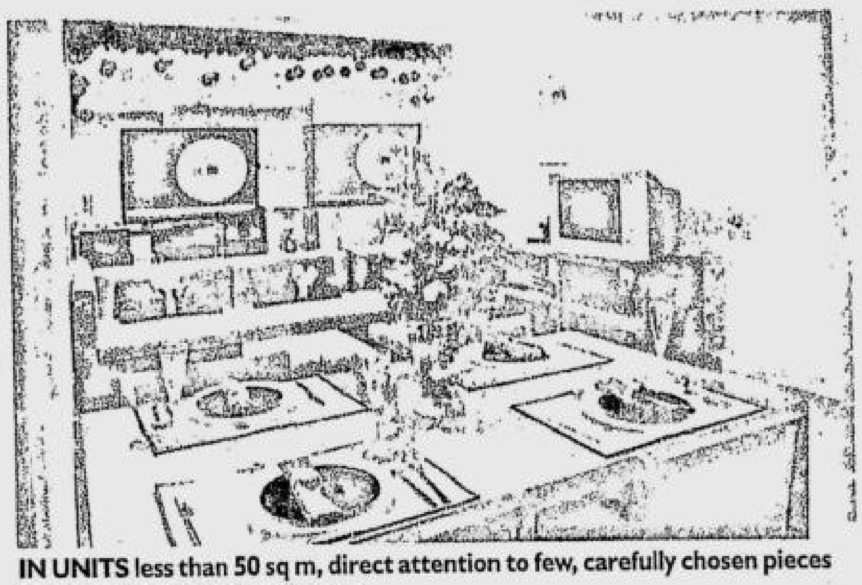
MACTAN Tiles

Raising the holiday spirit to new heights

AS MORE AND MORE METRO MANILans enjoy the benefits of high-rise living in the city, the need for special interior design solutions for condominium spaces has never been more keenly felt. In time for the coming holidays, Christmas stylist Dolly Rodriguez was tapped by Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. to provide suggestions for this growing breed of homeowners.

Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. (LPHI), a subsidiary of Ayala Land and the leading provider of homes in the P1 million to P3 million price range, currently offers two convenient Metro Manila condos for young couples, professionals as well as Filipinos based overseas.

Its popular One Aeropolis Sucat and Aeropolis New Manila residential units which boast of large windows and the abundance of natural light are located on Dr. A. Santos Drive in Parañaque and on Bonny Serrano, Quezon City, respectively. LPHI also offers quality yet affordable houses and lots in suburban locations to cater to the needs and aspirations of the Filipino family.



IN UNITS less than 50 sq m, direct attention to few, carefully chosen pieces to maintain the illusion of space.

LAMPS make good alternatives to traditional Christmas trees which take up space.

Other tips

Because they have high clearances which allow better ventilation, Aeropolis units lend themselves to decorations suspended from the ceiling. According to Rodriguez, this leaves the floor free and also maintains the image of spaciousness. Below are other tips she offers to condo dwellers wishing to fix up their homes for the holidays.

- **Maintain a single dominant color.** In the One Aeropolis unit she decorated, Rodriguez focused on red which beautifully complemented the olive and taupe interiors. She mixed red with touches of gold. Nonetheless, she has also used midnight blue, and even purple for more sophisticated looks. She notes, nonetheless, that she mixed both generously with crystal to capture the sparkle of the holidays.
- **Instead of a traditional tree, work on a smaller alternative.** Rather than take up floor space with a four- or six-foot tree, Rodriguez opted to turn a lamp into a makeshift tree simply by hanging ornaments on it. A Christmas tree is not always needed to capture the holiday spirit.
- **Let ribbons tell the story.** Wired ribbons can be wrapped around pillows and ottomans to instantly communicate Christmas. They can also decorate garlands. Rodriguez highly recommends wired ribbons instead of nonwired ones because the former has body. For as long as they are returned to the roll after the holidays, wired ribbons can be used and reused through the years.
- **Select a focal point.** For a unit less than 50 sq m, Rodriguez suggests focusing attention on only one main element. In the One Aeropolis unit, a floral centerpiece on top of the dining table is it.
- **Limit your design elements.** In a compact space, avoid using too many elements. Rodriguez herself highly favors the use of Christmas balls. Suspended from the ceiling with nylon string or simply gathered in a crystal bowl, balls are festive. She has also sewn them onto the edges of a tablecloth thrown over an accent table. She favors mixing balls with twigs, berries and flowers and no more. Otherwise, a compact space may look too busy.

When decorating a condo for the holidays, less is definitely more. In the final analysis, says Rodriguez, décor can only do so much. Christmas, after all, resides first and foremost in the heart.

Aeropolis residential condominiums adhere to LPHI's commitment to provide affordable residences that enhance the security and well-being of its owners over the long term. LPHI is now celebrating its 15th year of raising the Filipino dream of owning a home to new heights.

For more information, call 788-0951 for One Aeropolis Sucat and 722-5480 for Aeropolis New Manila.

The promise of greenery at Bay Garden

FEDERAL LAND INC., A NAME ASSOCIAted with vision, quality and excellence, guarantees a home within the pulse of the city while coupled with the peace and serenity of nature. As the real estate property arm of the Metrobank Group, Federal Land, for the past 33 years, has remained steadfast with its vow to provide top-of-the-line dream homes and expertly developed communities amid the vibrant blue and green of nature.

There is no longer any need to leave the city to experience the rejuvenating effects of fresh air, vast skies, miles of open seas as well as Metro Manila's legendary views of both sunrise and sunset.

First-class condo

Bay Garden, a first-class condominium development in the heart of the city, combines the sophistication and convenience of cosmopolitan living with the benefits and bounties of a natural environment right at its doorstep. Located right next door to the famous Manila Bay, holding residence in quarters as luxurious and classic as Bay Garden while directly adjacent to the beauty of nature is definitely not to be taken for granted.

WITH BAY Garden's open spaces punctuated with verdant gardens and a serene ambiance, you are guaranteed that your family can always move freely and breathe deeply.

Just across the horizon, the sun rises and sets into the South China Sea giving the onlooker a sense of peace and tranquility. To see this sight upon awakening and enjoying it as the last view before winding down to sleep at the end of the day is an honor to take pleasure in.

Nowhere else offers the seamless union of drama and comfort. While securely tucked within the reassuring security of a peaceful home, the great outdoors of the concrete jungle and the vast openness of the sky and seas meld into a backdrop fit for the ideal urban lifestyle.

Irresistible package

Many have yielded to the burdens and demands of city living, at times paying the high price with stress, anxiety, deadlines and toxic pollutants. Sometimes, many forget to stop for a moment to take time to smell the roses, busy within the steel confines of office buildings.

Bay Garden Condominium, with its lush tropical landscaping combined with the renowned Manila Bay panorama, is an irresistible package for the urban worker who works hard, plays hard but understands and appreciates that life is more than just about the office, the business trips and the endless rounds of conferences.

Priceless reward

Coming home to Bay Garden Condominium is a priceless reward for the weary at the end of a bustling day. Even the interiors help eliminate exhaustion. The units are purposely designed and structured to make the resident feel part of a broader environment which allows one and all to release all tension and stress amid the professional and natural landscaped gardens and greenery of the immediate surroundings.

Experiencing the great in the great outdoors after an endless day gives man renewed vigor, hope and peace within. With the constant privilege of being greeted daily by natural God-given greenery amid picturesque panoramas of a seascape and cityscape, living in the city has never been so natural.

For more information, call 889-6414 or 889-4900 or e-mail inquiry@federalland.com.ph or visit www.baygarden.com.ph.

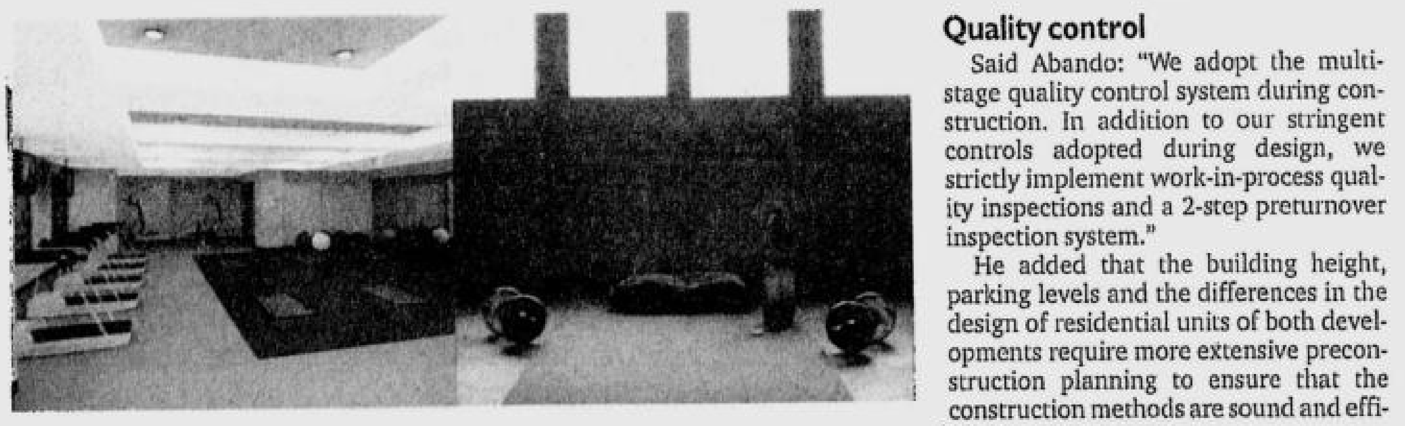
P2-B sequel to The Columns features 450-sqm gym

From page B2-1

and five parking levels above ground. He described the residential units in TCAA as all "flats," while TCLV has a combination of both "flats" and "bi-levels."

The Columns Ayala Avenue has 850 units with studio, one- and two-bedroom units. Community Innovations claims that Tower 1 is now sold out, with a few units left for Towers 2 and Towers 3 still available.

The Columns Legazpi Village (at the corner of Amorsolo and Arnaiz, formerly Pasay Road) will also offer studio, junior one-bedroom, one-bedroom, one-bedroom loft, two-bedroom, two-bedroom bi-levels, and two-bedroom loft units. The first and second towers are scheduled for completion by 2010 and 2011, respectively.



THE 450-sq m gym

Main differences

Asked about the main differences between Columns Ayala and Legazpi from an architect's point of view, Edwin Yabut first pointed out the heights of the two projects.

"Due to the limitation in restrictions of The Columns Ayala Avenue, we didn't raise the towers, while The Columns Legazpi Village will have imposing towers," Yabut said. According to him, the developer retained the artwork, recreational deck, the amenities, garden drop-off, the well-interiored double height lobbies and even the piazza or the plaza for the new project.

Yabut cited that in the architectural design, in terms of the area/environment

- The property is next to known subdivisions, so this gives Columns Legazpi prominence.
- Being in Legazpi Village itself is also a difference. The new project is at the edge of the Central Business District. And this ensures residents of Columns Legazpi of clear views, practically 360 degrees.

Architectural challenges

Asked about the architectural challenges that he had to hurdle while doing both projects, Yabut said his group had to deal with the local restrictions on the TCAA property, which gave a limited area to work with TCLV challenges include the size of its property and the configuration of the site, which he described as "boomerang shaped."

"The dimensions were quite restricting so we had to consider this in the design and efficiency of the building," he said.

3 challenges

Abando cited selection of competent and reputable consultants, construction cost environment and quality control are three of the challenges he faced as the developer's technical services head.

Said Abando: "It is always important that the design consultants engaged in our projects are well experienced and competent and contributes to CII's thrust to innovate. More importantly, these consultants should be very concerned in the compliance to all applicable codes, some international best practices, all leading to safety consciousness."

He added that the volatility of construction costs requires his group to be more creative and efficient in the design, specifications development and procurement.

According to him, CII is committed to "deliver what we promise to our buyers, thus it is to our best interest to ensure that we diligently source the right materials and engage efficient contractors in both projects."

Quality control

Said Abando: "We adopt the multi-stage quality control system during construction. In addition to our stringent controls adopted during design, we strictly implement work-in-process quality inspections and a 2-step preturnover inspection system."

He added that the building height, parking levels and the differences in the design of residential units of both developments require more extensive preconstruction planning to ensure that the construction methods are sound and efficient.

He cited the focus on safety during construction, efficiency in use of resources, and appreciation of the physical environment so that proper countermeasures are in place during project execution.

Abando enumerated similar design concepts and quality control measures which his group will be applying again in TCLV are building notches and concern for safety.

"These notches will allow 'cross-ventilation' within the units. Also, kitchens and toilets and bath will have natural ventilation. These notches ensure good air exchange, avoid stale air to develop within the units," he said.

Abando explained that CII carefully selected consultants who share the developers' philosophy in designing buildings following all local codes, and material specifications that will ensure the safety of the residents.

Good views

While deciding on where windows should be facing (for both Ayala and Legazpi), the Columns Ayala Avenue was designed to be facing the CBD to maximize good views and the Manila Bay.

"Since it's in the fringe of the CBD, The Columns Legazpi Village has really good views," said Yabut.

"The highlight in terms of view is the views of the south if you get a unit facing Arnaiz Avenue, views of Manila Bay for units facing Amorsolo, Makati skyline view for units facing Adelantado and Benavidez," he added.

Abando said the structured view is done prior to the launch of the project.

Design review

"In general, we conduct a design review especially for multi-dwelling structures. In our case, we use both foreign and local consultants as structural design reviewers. The review will include an assessment of the design criteria, frame analysis, wind pressure analysis and seismic analysis," said Abando.

The CII said the structure has a unique air channel design, which gives all units better ventilation.

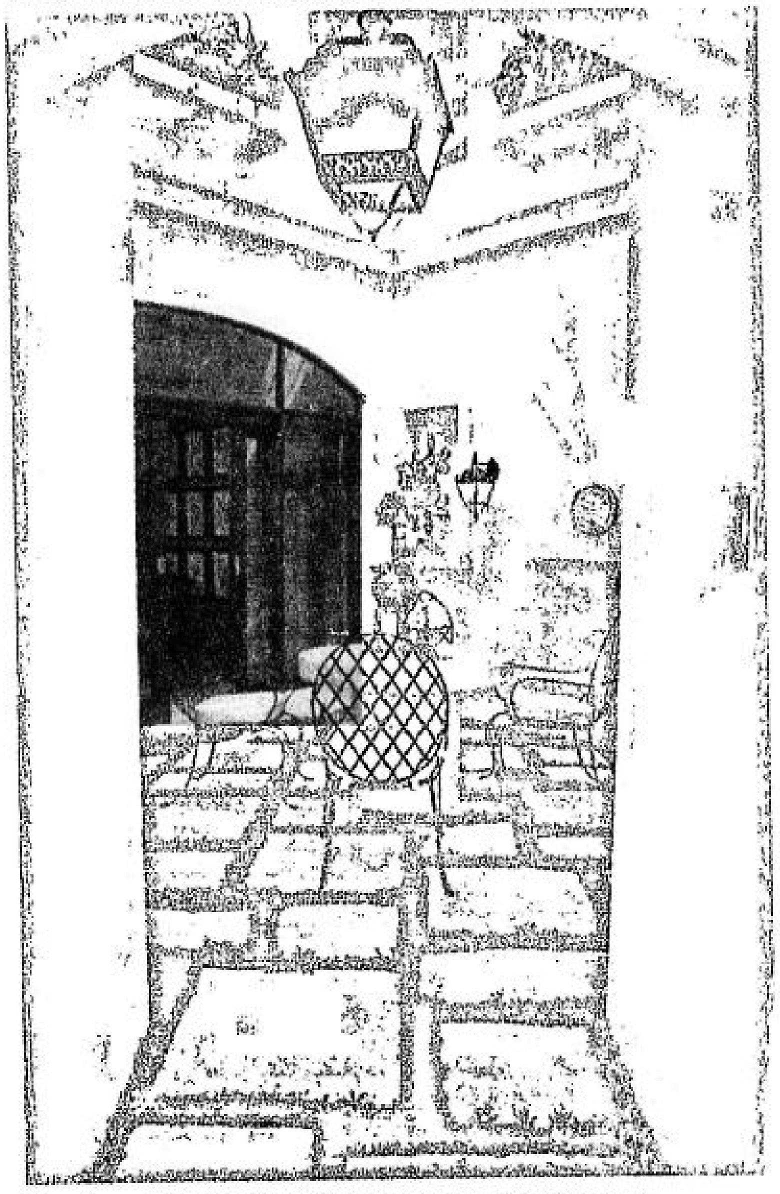
Legazpi Village is a 43-hectare community enclosed by Amorsolo Street, Paseo de Roxas, Dela Rosa Streets and Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road).

The location has a church, a dance studio, coffee shops, Italian restaurants, a park and a university.

The Community Innovations is a subsidiary of Ayala Land that caters to the middle-income urban residential market.

Courtyards enjoy a special status at Portofino

Responding to the need of more open living spaces in an overcrowded lifestyle, the heightened awareness of the environment and the desire to feel part of nature wherever possible, Brittany Corporation has developed the Courtyards of Portofino, drawing inspiration from Mediterranean homes.



Rembrandt's Courtyard: "An inner courtyard makes entertaining a light, casual and intimate affair."

The over-all concept of this Italian-inspired architecture aims to emphasize the beauty of having an inner court inside the confines of a single lot. It defines courtyard as "an enclosed yard adjoining a building." It is similar to a patio or a lanai but it is thrust into a bigger opening or court to connect primary spaces such as the dining and living areas.

Courtyards of Portofino is composed of 96 lots with designs based on four model units, named after such masters as Rembrandt, Raphael, Monet and Cezanne.

Among all the model units, Raphael's courtyard is on the side unlike the Rembrandt model which is at the center of the home. In the Raphael, the courtyard as the main feature of the design recreates an atmosphere that is open and takes full advantage of natural light and ventilation. Also, intentionally unbounded on one side, the courtyard allows full access to and a splendid view of the garden. Thus, the concept of the side courtyard is realized.

The courtyard provides a wider expanse of outdoor light and views. Where sunshine is most welcome, rooms and spaces are naturally well lit at daytime. The courtyard catches the morning sun to brighten areas where the family can get-together. According to Brittany Corp's president Ms Jing Serrano, " The high end market composed of CEOs, professionals and balikbayans, have snapped up many of the houses and lots of Courtyards of Portofino. They have found the houses are well designed in traffic flow, provide right storage and make use of quality but low-maintenance materials."

Raphael's Courtyard: "A relaxing space for receiving guests or simply for soaking up the sunshine and fresh air."

The Courtyards of Portofino is along the Las Pinas-Muntinlupa-Laguna-Cavite link road. For property previews and inquiries, call 850 2868, 850 3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.

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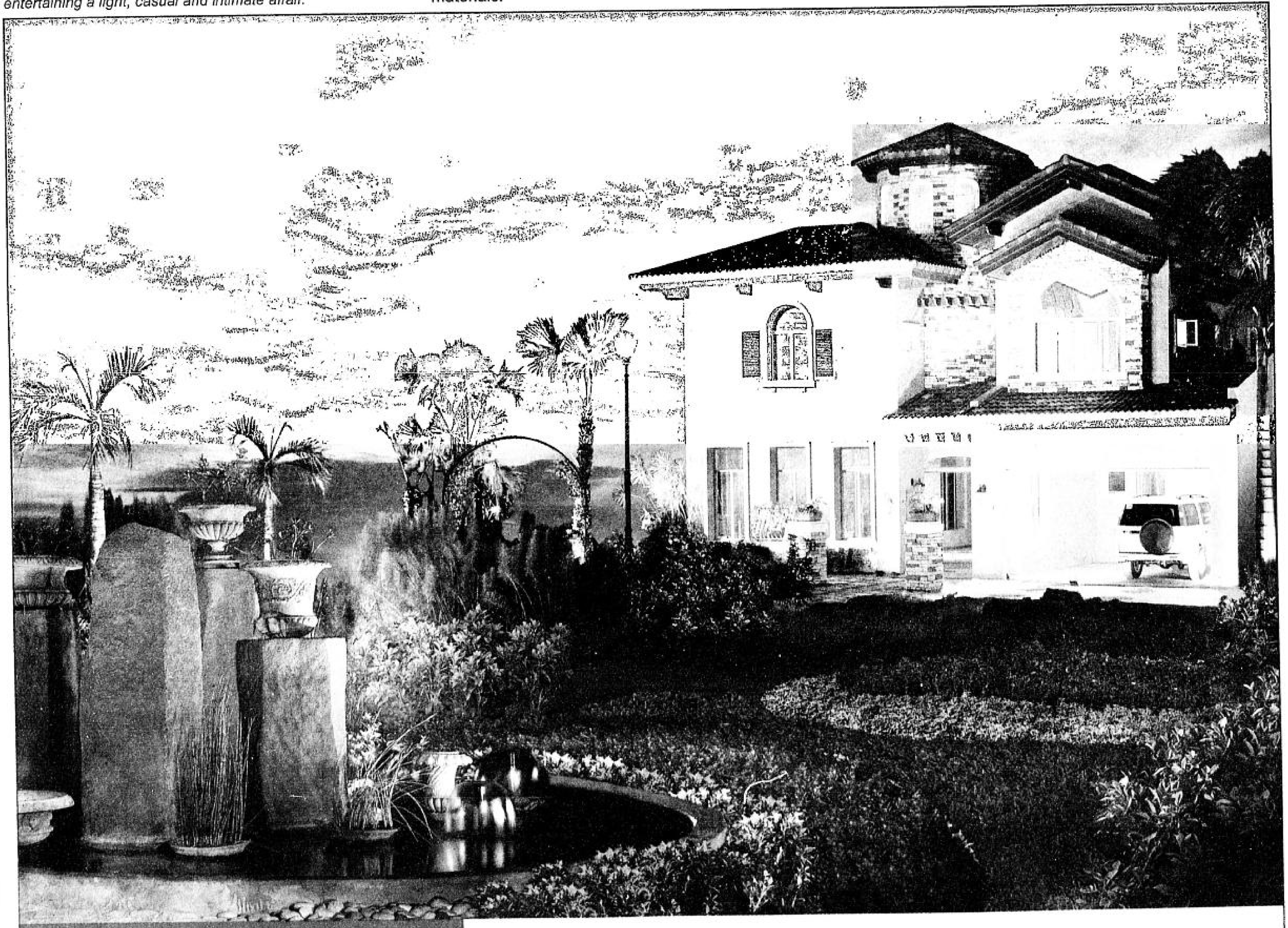

A 300-HECTARE LUSH LANDSCAPE SERVES AS THE CANVAS...

MASTERPLANNED HOMES AND AMENITIES GIVE IT FORM...

NATURE PROVIDES A VARIETY OF VIBRANT COLORS...

CHARMING ITALIAN VILLAGES OFFER INSPIRATION...

THIS IS WHAT IT TAKES TO MAKE A MASTERPIECE.

Portofino
ALABANG

A grand masterpiece of quaint magnificence, Portofino is an expansive masterplanned community of distinct Italian character. From its verdant landscapes to its exclusive enclaves–Portofino Heights, Portofino South, the *WideLots*™, and Courtyards of Portofino, every architectural design and detail of this vast property speaks of Old World elegance.

The Custom Home Sites, the Courtyard Homes and *WideLots*™, the 15-hectare commercial complex, the well-rounded amenities, and its closeness to commercial and business areas, schools, hospitals, and major roads, expresses the art of living the grand life in Portofino.

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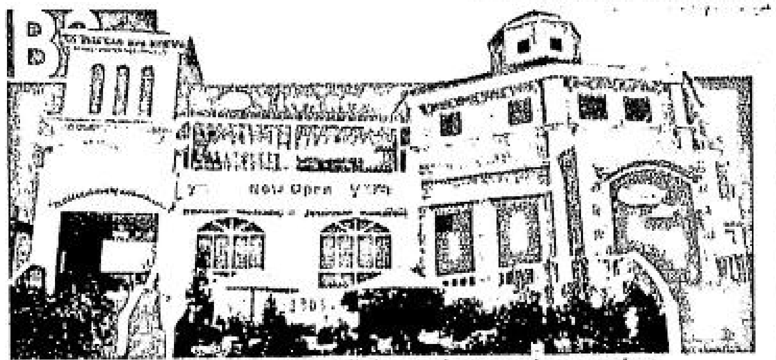


THE WHARF delivers exquisite dining and entertainment that everybody—from families and friends to business colleagues—can enjoy.

Nightlife essentials at The Wharf

DINING al fresco becomes more fun and memorable with live bands rockin' it out at The Wharf promenade.

AS THE SUN DISAPPEARS INTO THE horizon, the city comes to life with the flickering of neon lights that bathe the metropolis with an unmistakable glow. Night has fallen, yet it is at this point that the city is most awake and teeming with life.

For motorists driving along the South Super Highway, one light shines brighter than the rest—beckoning weary travelers to stop, enjoy an excellent meal over a good conversation, and come home less jaded from urban worries and concerns.

This light emanates from The Wharf, a centerpiece of urban entertainment and convenience at the heart of Brittany Bay and is the newest happening place south of Manila. It is a unique community inspired by the lifestyle and architecture of San Francisco. The brainchild of Brittany Corp., the masterplanner and builder of fine communities, The Wharf, together with the Brittany Bay community, is a reflection of the maverick real estate developer's unique understanding of what it means to truly be alive and living to the fullest.

Commercial hub

"When we said that Brittany Bay is a community, we meant it in every sense of the word. And that means including a commercial hub where people can dine, listen to music and have the opportunity to meet socially with their neighbors. People need a place to go to unwind. Building a community is not just about constructing homes and a clubhouse. The Wharf exemplifies Brittany Corp.'s commitment to our clients. We are always willing to take that extra mile if only to ensure that everything will literally be at their fingertips," explained Brittany president Jing Serrano.

THE WHARF'S cozy outdoor ambiance and fantastic view of the bay make for perfect acoustic sessions.

While most people find it a surprise to hear that the place is called The Wharf when it is situated right in the middle of the South Super Highway (just beside the Sucat tollgate), before long they will realize the reason for such a name. Behind this neo-Victorian structure is the Laguna de Bay and a table on the second level of The Wharf provides a breathtaking view especially on a clear night. In a way, the name pays homage to the lake and everything it provides to sustain life around it.

Unique blend

Its architecture, characterized by bay windows and ornate adornments, is inspired by the lifestyle of San Francisco. It is this unique blend of sophistication and coziness that The Wharf hopes to mirror with its multilevel structure that can accommodate both large gatherings and intimate dates, beautifully landscaped grounds that shield diners from the hustle and bustle of commuter traffic along the highway, and carefully chosen dining outlets that cater to a more refined palate.

"The Wharf is the commercial component of Brittany Bay," Jing added. "It is intended to provide the entertainment and lifestyle needs of current and future residents. Ultimately, because of how it was planned, it has now become the place to be in Sucat."

Dencio's Grill, Grappa's, Figaro, Gloria Maris and Murasaki, a Japanese restaurant, are among the dining outlets that now call The Wharf home. Soon to join the growing family is Brother's Burger. For those with more artistic pursuits, the Bay Center for Music and Arts provides dance and music lessons.

Main stage

At the heart of The Wharf is the main stage that occupies over 300 sq m. Here, various bands take turns at the center stage on Friday and Saturday nights to entertain diners. Brittany Bay provides them with a wide variety of music to cater to the varied tastes of their audience. Some nights feature retro, at other times it would be acoustic or trio-acoustic. Even solo performers get invited once in a while.

Otherwise, the area is also open for rental—be it an office party or a wedding reception. Indeed, The Wharf is a place teeming with activities day and night.

Synergy

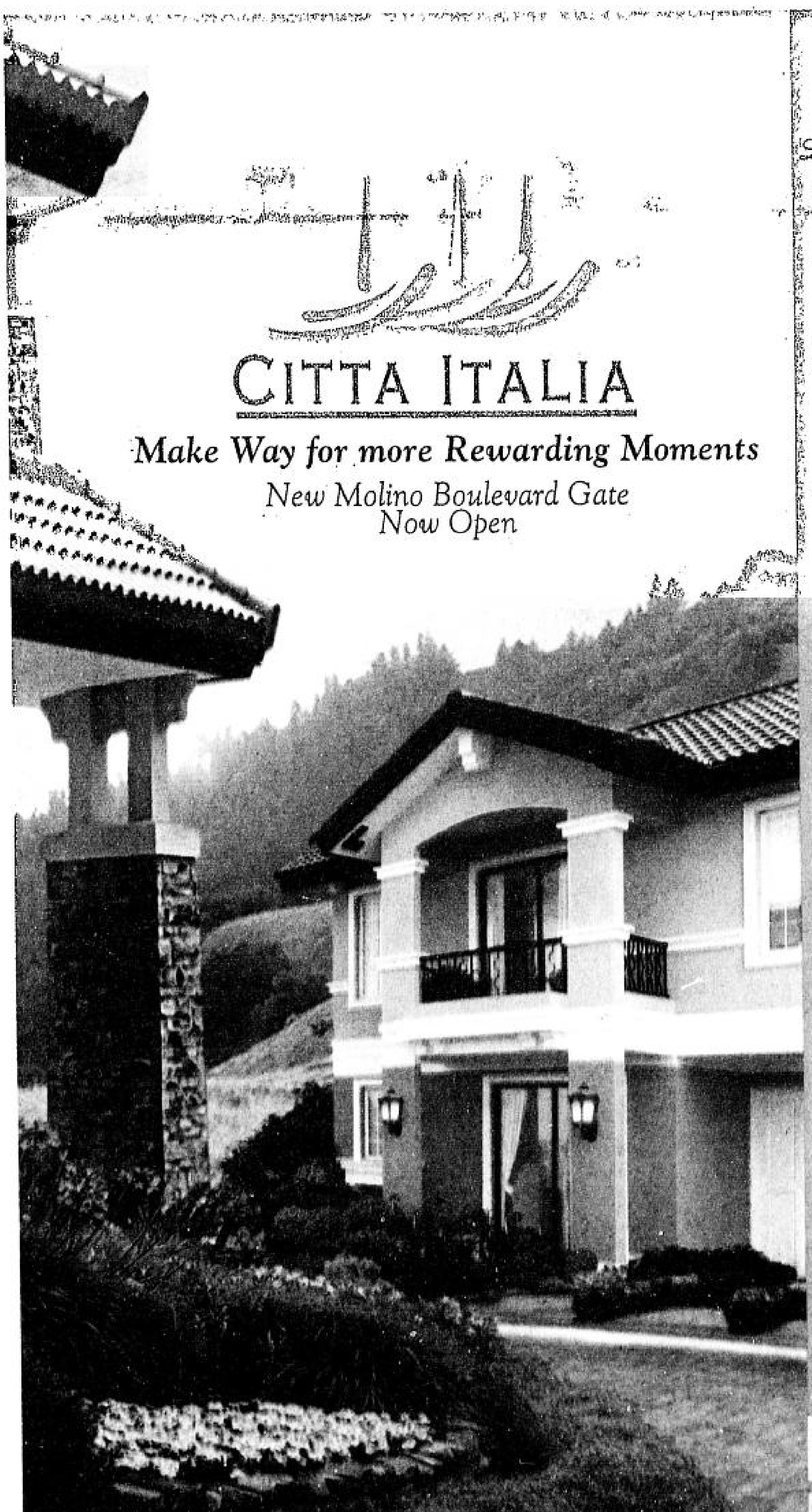
An interesting aspect of The Wharf, Jing notes, is the synergy that exists among its tenants. They view each other more as partners rather than competitors. An example of which is the openness to accommodate varied dining choices within a single party. A group of 10, he explained, may choose to occupy a table at Dencio's. But if one or two would like a specific dish from Grappa's, both restaurants are more than happy to oblige.

A feeling of family and belongingness, in more ways than one, has also taken root among the clients. A number of The Wharf's patrons visit the place regularly and tend to know each other by face if not by name. Yet new visitors would not feel out of place because of the cozy atmosphere.

The Wharf has likewise become a favorite hangout of businessmen. Lunch meetings are frequent because the peace and quiet is conducive to business discussions. Some celebrities, Jing observed, tend to spend more time at The Wharf than in the usual watering holes in Makati. "Here, they enjoy privacy and the crowd is not intrusive."

A neo-Victorian structure with a breathtaking view of the Laguna de Bay and a dining selection to suit your every mood, The Wharf has definitely changed the meaning of nightlife!

For more inquiries on The Wharf or Brittany Bay, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.



CITTA ITALIA
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Let the glorious moments of your life happen at Citta Italia. This private enclave in Imus, Cavite offers distinctive Italian-inspired homes to suit your lifestyle. All well designed and well within your reach. So whatever you choose, you and your family are assured of premium living without having to pay a premium price. Reward yourself. Come home to Citta Italia.

How to get to Citta Italia:

Via Coastal Road going to Bacoor, turn right on Aguinaldo Highway going to Imus, passing SM Bacoor. Turn left at JICA Road and you will see Medical Center Imus. Go straight until you reach Citta Italia on the left.

Via Alabang Exit, take Commerce Avenue then pass through Daang Hari. Go straight and cross Molino Road. Turn right on Bahayang Pag-asa Avenue. Follow the road leading to Buhay na Tubig Road and go straight until you see Citta Italia on the right.

Via Alabang, take Alabang-Zapote Road towards Cavite, turn left at Moonwalk (Marcos Alvarez Ave.). Follow the road going to Jollibee Molino. Turn left on Molino Road, go straight, then turn right at Bahayang Pag-asa Avenue. Turn right again upon reaching Jetti Gasoline Station. Follow the road leading to Buhay na Tubig Road and go straight until you see Citta Italia on the right.

Via Carmona Exit, take Governor's Drive. Turn right on Aguinaldo Highway taking Manila route passing Imus Toll Bridge. Turn right at Jica Road and you will see Imus Medical Center. Go straight until you reach Citta Italia on the left.

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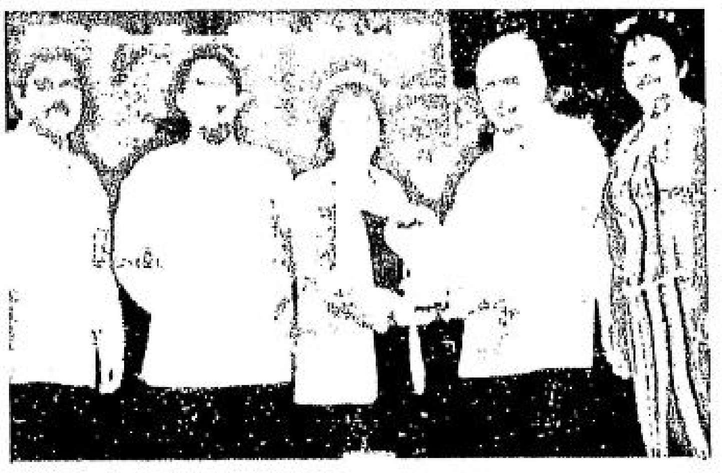


BEST CORPORATE WEBSITE AWARD
The website of Ayala Land Inc.'s first foray into the leisure sector, Anvaya Cove, (www.anvayacove.com) bagged Best Corporate Website award at the recently concluded 8th Philippine Web Awards held at the Meralco Theater in Pasig City. Receiving the award from Rep. Simeon Kintanar, chair of the House committee on information communications technology, is ALI Leisure and Lifestyle Communities Group head Marivic E. Añonuevo (center). With them are, from left, Media G8way Corp. (MGC) chair and editor in chief Ibarra C. Gutierrez, Information Communications Technology Commissioner Dondi O. Mapa, and MGC president and CEO Della C. Gutierrez. The Ayala Land International Sales Inc.'s Website (www.atayala.com) also won as People's Choice in the same category.

Empire East promotes healthy living

THROUGH A ONE-STOP organic market, leading township developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc. is making fresh produce accessible to the households of Laguna BelAir, the most successful township south of Manila, and other neighboring areas.

The market, called "The Orchard Laguna," offers fruits, vegetables, herbs and other organic products at affordable prices all year round. It is located beside the Laguna BelAir community on the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay National Road.

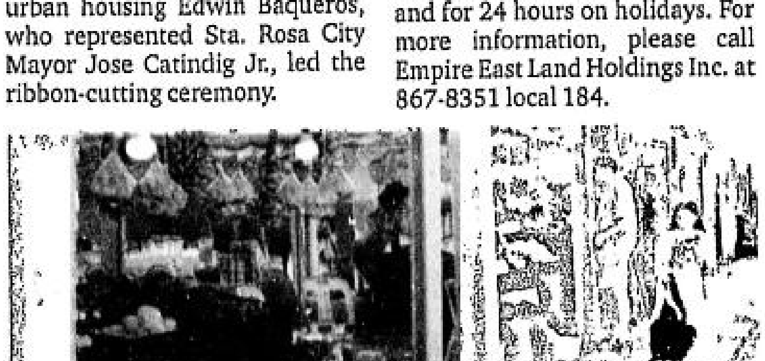
Kick-starting the recent launch of The Orchard Laguna was a motorcade around the Paseo de Sta. Rosa Mall. Sta. Rosa City chief of urban housing Edwin Baqueros, who represented Sta. Rosa City Mayor Jose Catindig Jr., led the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Food shopping destination

Apart from fresh produce, the market offers native goods and delicacies such as espasol, turrones de casoy, piaya, coconut vinegar and bagoong. Shoppers are provided with tables and chairs for alfresco dining as well as ample parking space.

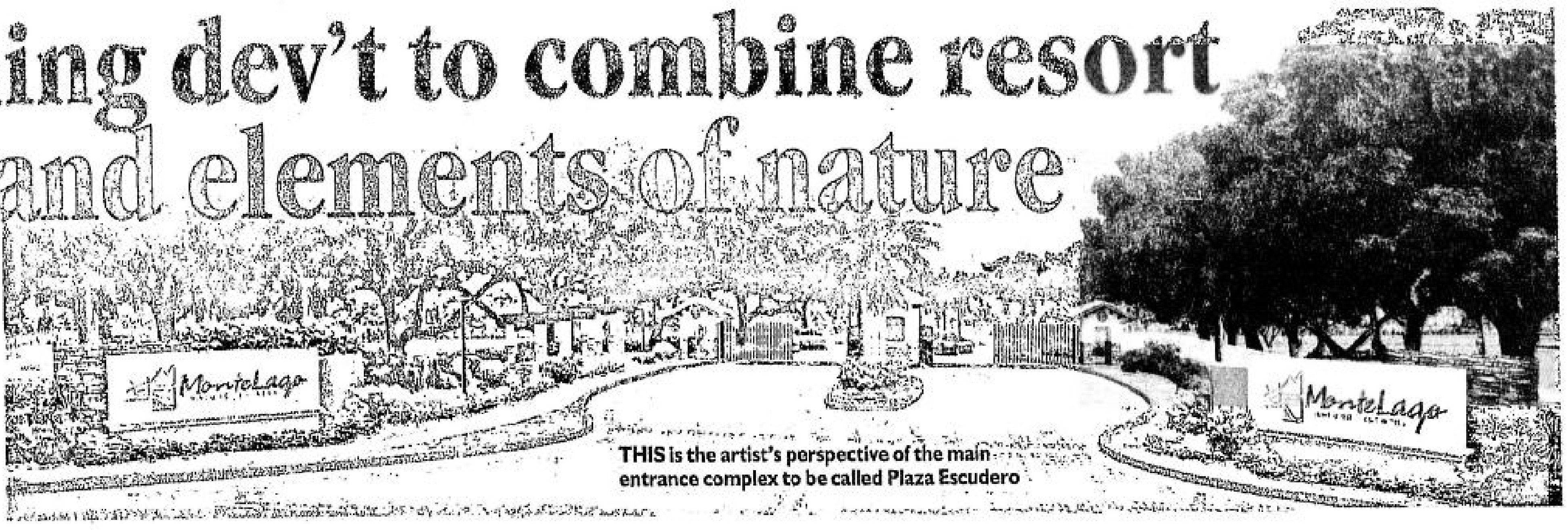
"The Orchard Laguna is an ideal food shopping destination for health-conscious families on a budget," said Empire East Marketing Services AVP Jhoanna Llaga. "Families can buy nutritious food right here in Sta. Rosa instead of going all the way to Tagaytay."

The Orchard Laguna is open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day and for 24 hours on holidays. For more information, please call Empire East Land Holdings Inc. at 867-8351 local 184.



THE ORCHARD Laguna

Upcoming dev't to combine resort living and elements of nature



THIS is the artist's perspective of the main entrance complex to be called Plaza Escudero

By Charles E. Buban

A NEW DEVELOPMENT in San Pablo City, Laguna, will combine luxury resort living with the elements of nature, landscaping and architecture.

This was recently revealed by developer Landco Pacific Corp. as it embarks on another high-profile residential project, this time in partnership, with Villa Escudero Plantations and Resort (VEPR).

The 102-hectare MonteLago Nature Estates is a nature-inspired residential community that will feature contemporary, Southern California-inspired architecture in a wooded setting to complement the lush natural environment of San Pablo.

"This is Landco Pacific's biggest and most exclusive residential development project so far. We are envisioning it to be the largest privately owned tourist destination in the country that will highlight the richness of the Filipino culture and heritage," said Alfred Xerez-Burgos III, Landco Pacific's vice president and strategic business unit head.

Community parks

He said MonteLago will also feature community parks. Each is designed with gazebos, ponds and picnic areas providing areas for relaxation, while sports and recreation facilities, including jogging paths and bicycle lanes, children's playgrounds, courts pools-clubhouse, give it a unique resort flavor.

Envisioned to be a premier, self-contained community, MonteLago will have its own commercial center, school and chapel.

The location of the development affords its future residents generous views of scenic Mt. Makiling, Mt. San Cristobal and Mt. Banahaw.

Just a 10-minute drive from San Pablo city center, MonteLago promises to bring the city's lifestyle to newer heights.

Villa Escudero

Also home to the Escudero family, where they have built a name and a legacy through its Villa Escudero plantations, VEPR president Conrado Escudero said the family is confident Landco will deliver the lifestyle and value it has promised to deliver to their beloved property.

Villa Escudero is an 800-hectare coconut plantation that spans from Laguna and Quezon province. Founded in 1872, the estate is famous for its private museum and resort.

"As a leading name in the leisure and resort category, we are glad to have partnered with Landco Pacific in coming up with this leisure concept and ultimate second home that is original, distinctive, creative and rooted in the market's needs," said Escudero.

Landco Pacific is behind pioneering residential resort developments and lifestyle communities around the Philippines including the Peninsula de Punta Fuego and Terrazas de Punta Fuego in Nasugbu, Batangas, Leisure Farms hobby farming community in Lemery, Batangas, Ponderosa Leisure Farms flower garden village in Silang, Cavite, and Stonecrest Village first home development in San Pedro, Laguna.

Prime condo property to rise on UN avenue

By Charles E. Buban

UNITED NATIONS AVENUE IN Manila may not be known for high-rise structures but it soon will be once the 33-story condominium project from Anchor Land Holdings Inc. (Alhi) gets under way.

This was announced by Alhi chair Stephen Lee as he led the recent groundbreaking of Mayfair Tower located at the corner of UN Avenue and Mabini Street, Manila.

"Mayfair Tower is a high-rise residential condo that is set to become 'the place to be' in the heart of Manila. It will boast of first-class amenities, a unique oval-shaped upper deck profile and tranquility garden on the 31st floor viewing deck," he revealed.

Lee said Alhi is leading the "condominium-style living" trend in Manila saying such type of living will appeal to those who desire lifestyle options that have low-maintenance, recreational facilities and security.

Mayfair Tower is the second project of Alhi following the recent completion of Lee Tower, a high-rise executive residential condominium in Binondo, Manila.

To harmoniously coexist

According to Lee, the condominium complex was designed to harmoniously co-exist with its environment and provides a combination of amenities not usually found in condominium projects in the country.

Designed by Albert S. Yu and Associates Development Partner (Asya Development Partner), Mayfair Tower will boast of a fitness center, a clubhouse, pool, sunken bar, lounge, wellness center with two saunas and shower rooms, jogging paths, a pond as well as waterfalls for those seeking a place of quietude.

"Among the best features of Mayfair Tower are Sky Terrace, a landscaped area with its own breakfast nook at the roof deck, and the Vista Deck located at the 31st floor, which can accommodate 150 people," said Asya chief architect Albert Yu.

3–level penthouse

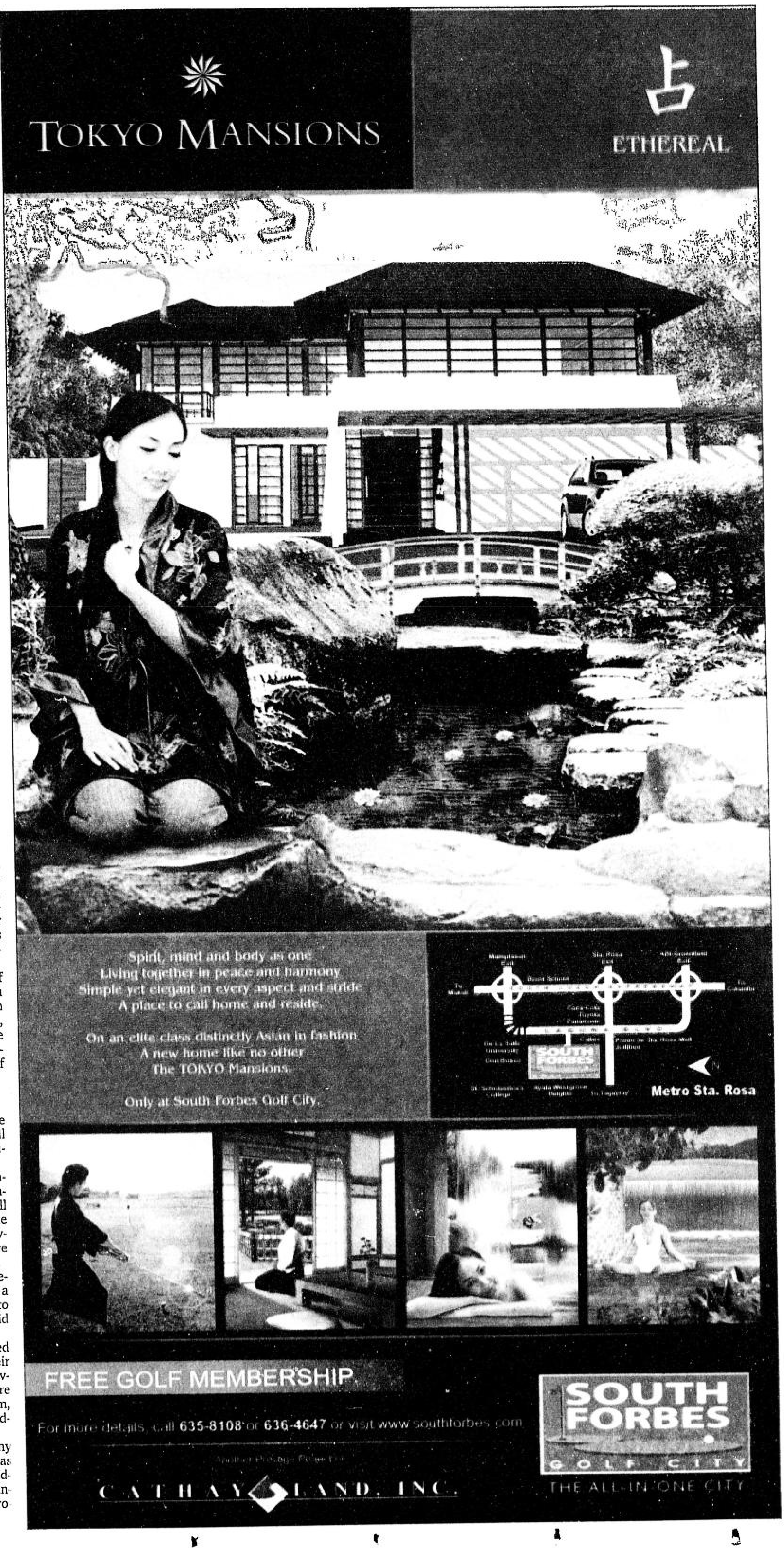
Mayfair Tower's penthouse units will also be unique as it will offer three levels filled with luxurious appointments.

The upper level will be a single-bed unit with a large swimming pool while the middle will have a jacuzzi located beside the master's bedroom. The lower level on the other hand, will have two rooms with a common pool.

"Not only that, we have designed Mayfair Tower in such a way its residents will be able to enjoy the surrounding vista," said Yu.

Lee added that interested home buyers may now visit their showroom located at the 5th level of SM Manila. On display are Mayfair Tower's one-bedroom, two-bedroom bi-level, three-bedroom and five-bedroom units.

Alhi, a multinational company with several interests in China as well as other parts of Asia, decided not to presell its units and instead, will fully finance the projects up to its completion.



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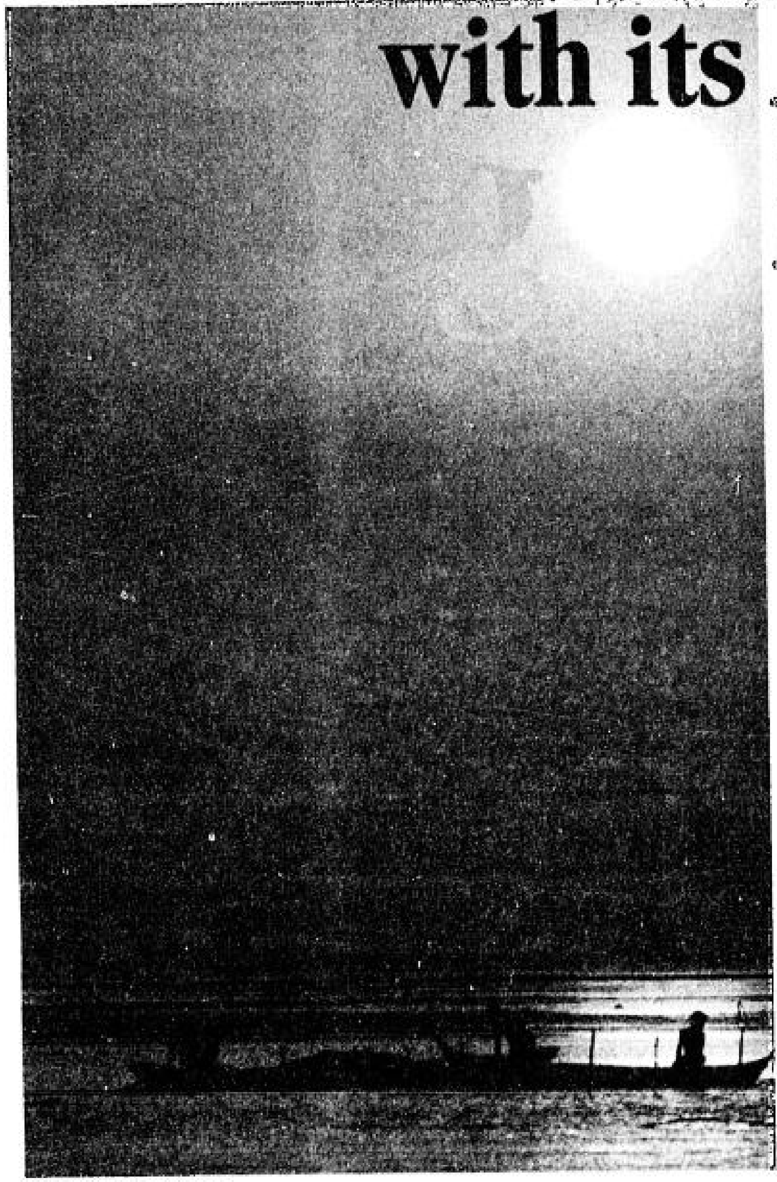
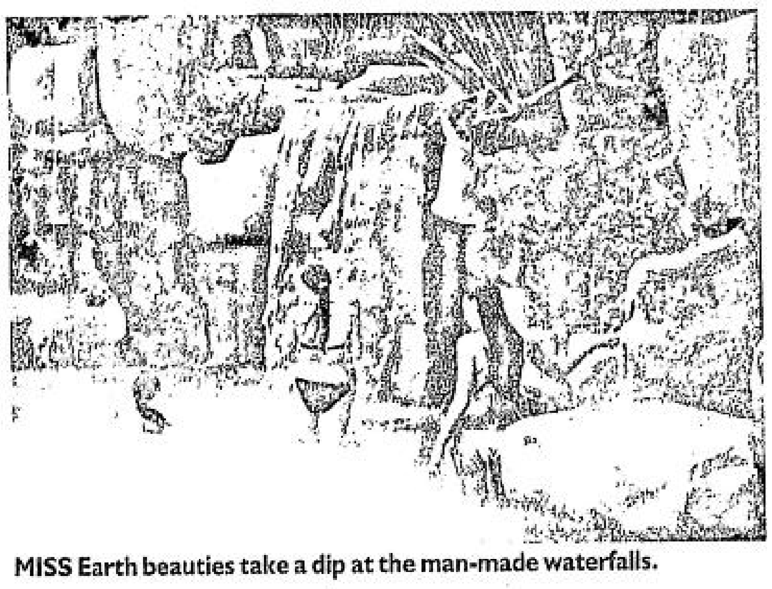
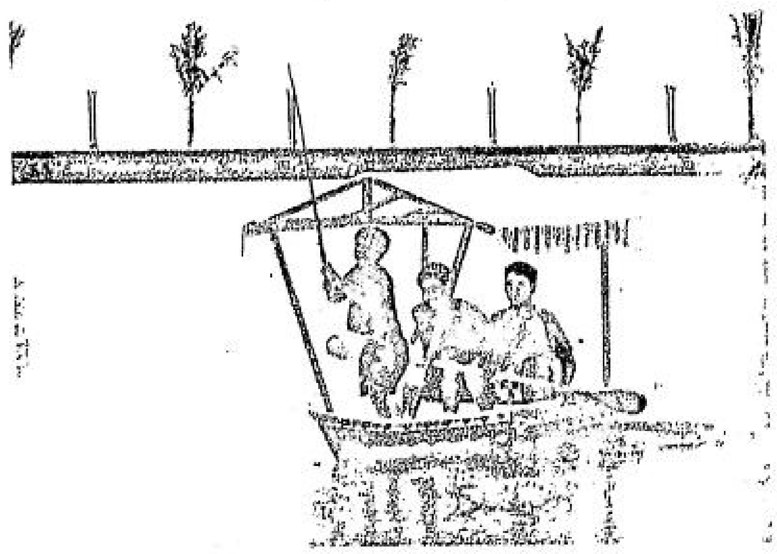
Calatagan beckons with its golden sunset



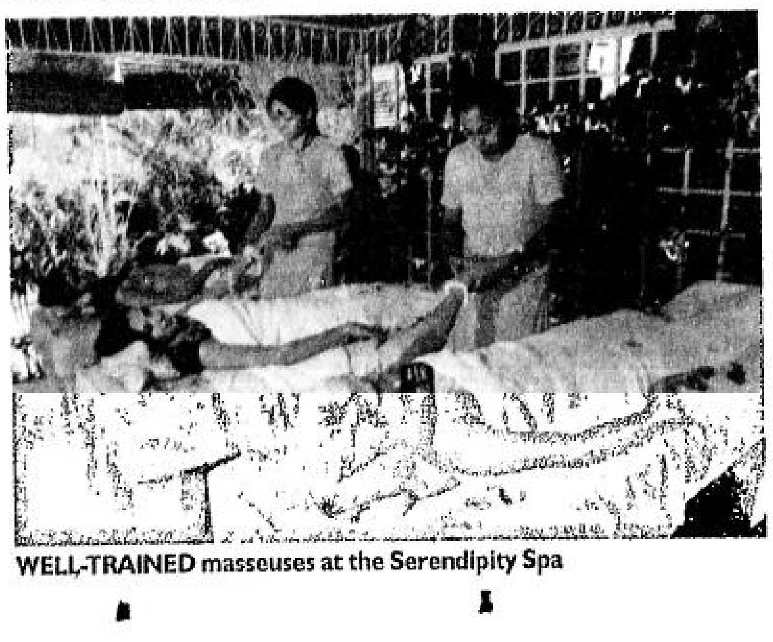
THE GOLDEN sun



MISS Earth beauties take a dip at the man-made waterfalls.



BOATING while fishing



WELL-TRAINED masseuses at the Serendipity Spa

By Cesar D. Mangawang

IT'S A RESORT WITH NO MASterplan, said beauty expert Ricky Reyes about the resort he owns in Calatagan. "If you want to get the resort blueprint, just xerox Ricky's brain because even future structures are there," joked his business partner Cris A. Aquino, who is president and CEO of TravelPROS Inc.

"We had 20 names to choose from and the list was narrowed down to three," Ricky reveals. They already selected one name from the three and had already attached it to the resort. There was, however, a change of mind. It turned out that one day when he was looking at the sunset, he noticed its golden color and this was how the resort got its name.

Creative ideas

In fact, what Golden Sunset is today is an accumulation of Ricky's creative ideas which were transformed into various structures for the past one and a half years. This means that no architect and interior designer were involved in the design of the resort. It was only Ricky who conceptualized all the structures in the resort.

The resort is a two-and-a-half ride south of Manila. You'll be passing a sugarcane plantation and rows of houses, before arriving there. You'll be amazed that such a lovely destination exists in that secluded place in Calatagan.

Structures

The first structure constructed in the area was the pavilion which used to be just a skeletal structure. Since the pavilion is near the resort entrance, it has the reception area. Also included in the pavilion are two billiard tables and darts.

Because the swimming pool that was built was large enough, Ricky had to open the resort to the public. Guests can play beach volleyball near the pool.

Ricky's fascination with the butterfly made him plan the construction of the butterfly sanctuary. He even likened his life and even his career to a butterfly. He admitted that he was born poor but he strived hard to be where he is now.

Near the butterfly sanctuary is a children's playground. There are also cages where birds can stay. Bikes are also for rent near the area. Adults can rent the bikes for P100 for two hours. Bike rental for kids is P50 for two hours. Horse-riding will soon be offered at the resort, probably in summer.

There is also a fish farm where guests can enjoy fishing for bangus (milkfish) and tilapia. They have to pay their catch per kilo. Others can go boating. Boat rental are P200 per hour.

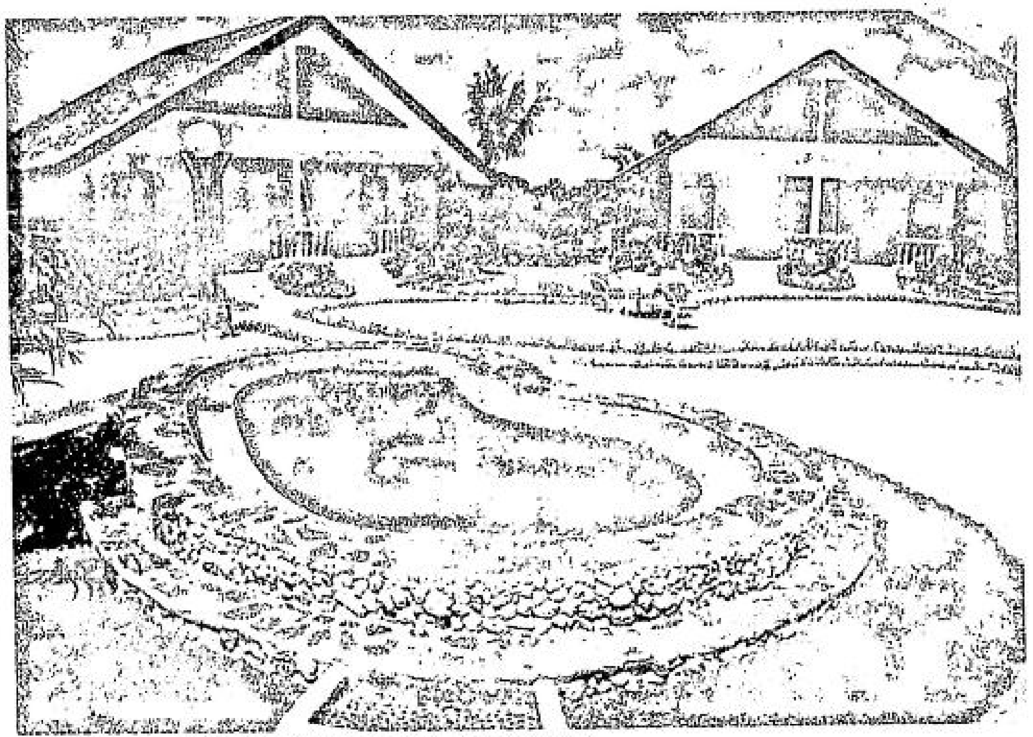
Ricky intends to put an archeological site marker at the resort. The National Museum and Ayala Museum were able to unearth potteries during the time of the Ming dynasty. These were called Calatagan diggings.

Subdivision

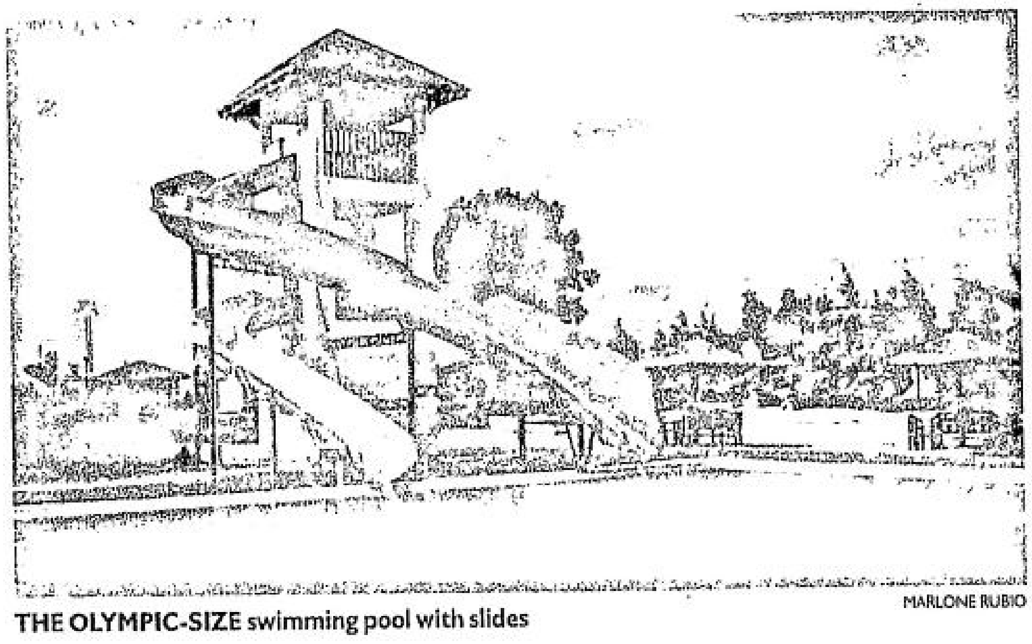
To be put up beside the resort next year is a subdivision that will have lot cuts of 200 sq m. It will have tree-lined roads. There will be three blocks in the subdivision. Buyers will have to choose from three house models but they will be the ones to construct their own houses following a theme. Utilities will be underground.

Homeowners can avail of the facilities and amenities of the resort by paying monthly dues.

MARLONE RUBIO



GUESTS can soothe their tired muscles at the jacuzzi.



THE OLYMPIC-SIZE swimming pool with slides

MARLONE RUBIO

Accommodations

Cottages at the Golden Cove are air-conditioned. These have separate attics which can be the sleeping quarters of drivers or house helpers. Guests here can use the two jacuzzis for relaxation.

There are also restful casitas, which are standard, deluxe rooms and dormitories. Guests can rent picnic tents or camping tents. Facilities are provided for conferences and seminars.

Spa

The Serendipity Spa is a crowd drawer. For body works, services offered are Shiatsu massage, Swedish massage or combination Thai massage. Hair spa, hair booster, hair reborn and hair shining are offered as hair and scalp treatments.

For foot and nail care, guests can avail of foot spa, classic manicure and pedicure. But guests would prefer the spa's two specialties. One is the Golden Touch, a rejuvenating and relaxing massage which is a combination of stretching and foot and elbow massage, and the other, Indulgence, a combination of a soothing footbath and scalp rejuvenation, then relaxing the body through a hydro massage in preparation for a volcanic stone treatment and tandem massage by two well-trained masseurs or masseuses.

There are nine masseuses in the spa. Request for masseurs is also entertained.

Some contestants in the Ms Earth competition stayed at the resort for three days. They fell in love with the place, especially the golden sunset after which the resort was named.

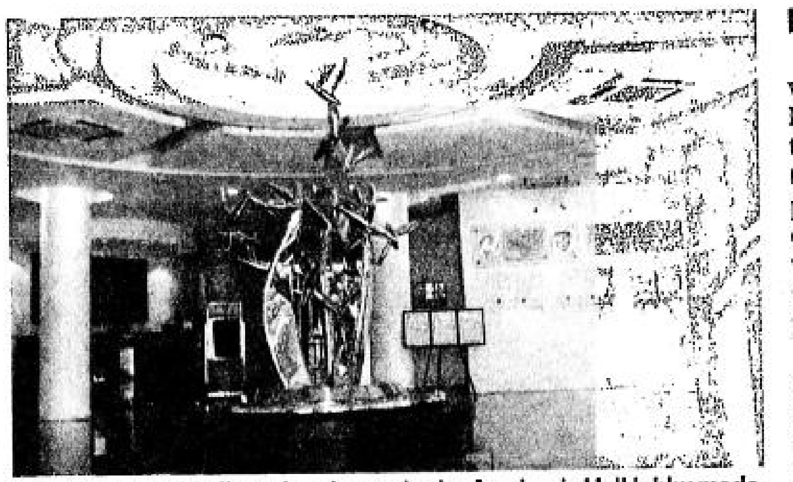
The Golden Sunset

THE RESORT mini jeep shuttles guests from one place to another.

Design as destination

ON SUMULONG HIGHWAY IN Antipolo, behind an unimposing, industrial-type gate, lies a "design" center. It is a place where works of architects and interior designers are outstandingly displayed. From the "futuristic" lines of an architect, down to an intricate glass sculpture, this can all be seen at the Meralco Management and Leadership Development Center (MMLDC).

"MMLDC is a world-class training facility but at the same time, it can also become a 'walk-through' museum," says Agnes Fidelino, MMLDC's managing director. "When people enter the vicinity, they experience a new setting. And they appreciate the design elements of the center, thus making learning more conducive," she adds.



"MERALCO Spirit," steel sculpture in the Academic Hall lobby made by Impy Pilapil, captures and depicts the essence and fervor of the center.

Masterpiece

To start off, noted architect Philip H. Recto created a masterpiece when he designed the various buildings of MMLDC using the natural surrounding of a former mango orchard. "That was the challenge—how to create a modern 'campus in the hills' while preserving the natural terrain and beauty of the place," says Fidelino.

True enough, Recto designed the facilities "around" the trees. Says Fidelino: "The result was really remarkable. MMLDC's training facilities 'merge' harmoniously with the forest. Not only do we have a 'campus in the hills' but also 'classrooms in the forests.'"

The buildings were designed with huge windows and high ceilings in order to maximize the use of natural lighting. The minimalist interiors allow guests to appreciate more the surrounding natural elements. Meanwhile, some of the hallways are adorned with unusual "wallpaper."

Design elements

"The hallways are decorated with blown-up pictures from the Meralco archives, like photos of the old Manila and Ortigas areas, the Meralco tranvia, as well as old print advertisements," says Fidelino. These "history on the wall" is complemented with walls that come in bright colors—purple, yellow, violet and blue.

And when one enters the Academic Hall, MMLDC's main building, an elegant sight of a steel sculpture by Impy Pilapil welcomes guests. While a giant mural of a lobster by Ed Castrillo adorns the entrance of the Food Hall. At the second level of the Food Hall and at the Residence Hall, paintings and sculptures by up and coming Filipino artists are featured.

"Visitors who come to MMLDC always tell us how the design elements of the center enhance their learning experience, and they have been particularly impressed how relaxing the atmosphere is here," says Fidelino.

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DOW AGROSCIENCES COUNTRY MANAGER Pablito R. Tolentino anticipates substantial and sustained growth for its revolutionary anti-termite Sentricon System with the appointment of Alog & Co. Inc. as its exclusive distributor.

Says Tolentino: "We expect more consumers to avail of Sentricon" because of the wider reach of Alog and the resultant increase of authorized operators through the company. Alog is a 24-year-old firm engaged in trading as dealer of local products and as exclusive distributor of foreign equipment and pesticides. The local office of Dow AgroSciences selected Alog as its exclusive distributor based on the company's financial capability, organization, market dominance and 24 years of solid experience.

Fair trader

"Anecdotal stories have always shown that Alog is a fair trader…it is a company that rewards its employees fairly." The responsibility of Alog will be to attract new authorized operators and train and support these authorized operators to keep their businesses growing. He continues, "I think it is important for a company like Dow AgroSciences that there is an established succession planning within Alog because for sure we would like to stay in the long haul."

The new arrangement is a global initiative by Sentricon System. Before the tie-up with Alog, Sentricon has been directly servicing authorized operators. According to Tolentino, the setup has been implemented in Australia and Singapore since last year. Starting this month, there will be a synchronized shift in some Asean countries to move in that direction.

In an industry often weighed down by fly-by-night players and unprofessional companies that race to bring down rates along with their quality of service, the importance of having only fully trained authorized operators enter your home and apply the system is undeniable.

Thorough understanding

To ensure proper use of the technology additional authorized operators will be guided by Alog to equip them with a thorough understanding of the product and the different species, biology and behavior of termites. Technical assistance will continue to come from the resources of Dow. "Sentricon is a system—it's not that easy to administer." Tolentino challenges pest control companies "to keep the quality up and the value will come."

Experts from around the world have pointed out the unprecedented efficiency of Sentricon system in eliminating colonies and protecting structures both in research trials and since commercialization in the United States and in other parts of the world, including the Philippines.

At present, the environment-friendly system protects global landmarks like the White House and the Statue of Liberty, some Philippine historical sites, and many thousands of homes and properties.

"Sentricon is not cheap, but is it expensive?" Tolentino asks. "We don't think so—we always price according to value." And it is good value because it is an investment that protects one's bigger investment, the home. We encourage homeowners to call us at 840-3774, 819-1986, 882-4513 and 882-1767 for more information about Sentricon.

Definitely with Dow Agrosciences-Sentricon System partnership with Alog, more authorized operators will be enlisted, and more properties will receive what industry experts cite as "the best possible protection for one's home."

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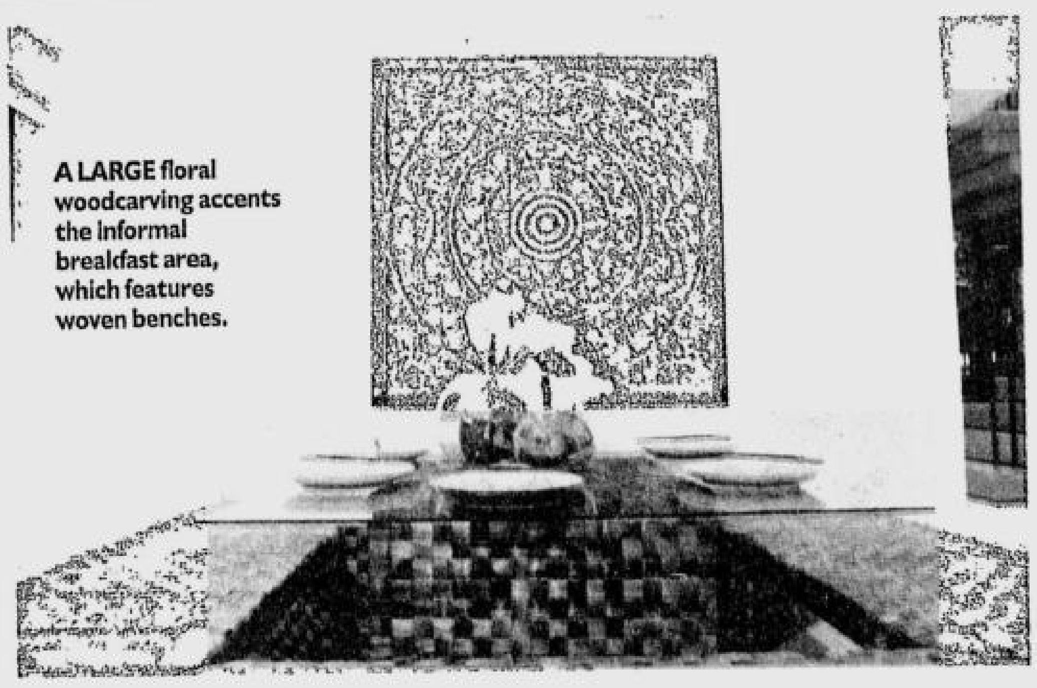
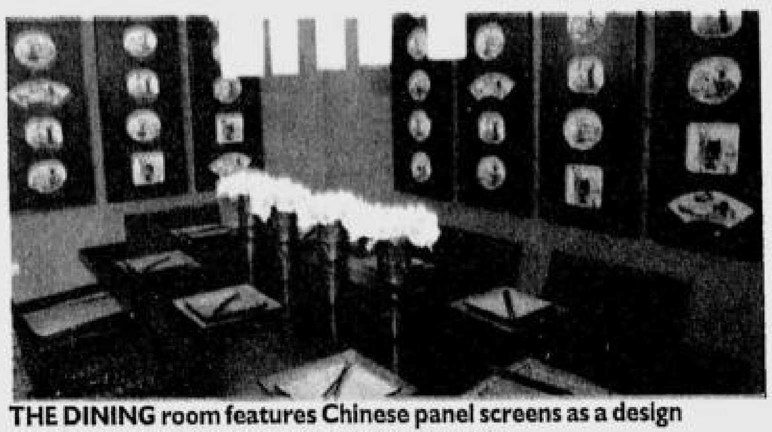
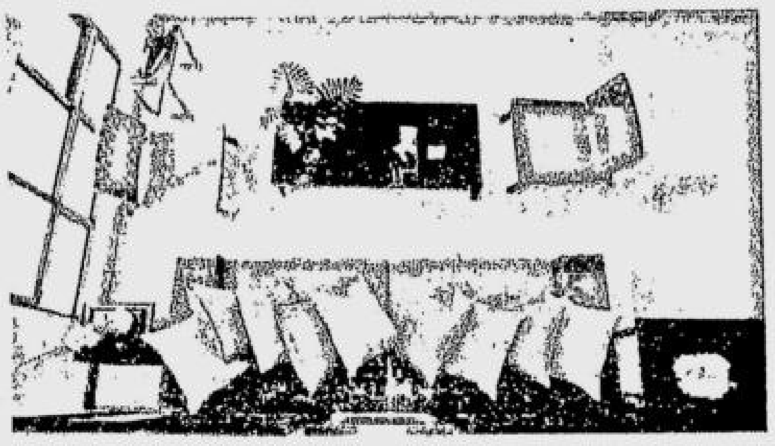


A LARGE floral woodcarving accents the informal breakfast area, which features woven benches.



THE DINING room features Chinese panel screens as a design element and ox blood upholstery for the walls.



THE VIEW of the living room of Nusa Dua from the indoor balcony is simply elegant.

Live in style at Bali Mansions

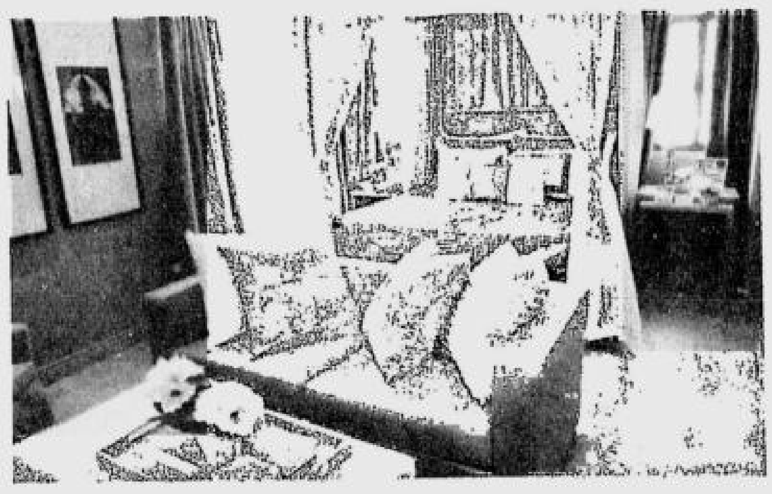
IN THE TROPICAL PARADISE OF BALI LIES an exotic place with crystal clear waters and stretches of white sandy beach. This beachfront, called Nusa Dua, is home to a dozen five-star hotels which give a new meaning to refined luxury and privileged hospitality. Heads of state all: kings, queens, presidents and prime ministers have experienced nothing but extraordinary service for an unforgettable stay.

Guests can have a relaxing spa treatment after a day of surfing the waves or diving with the creatures of Bali's reefs. Avid golfers can tee off at the world-class Bali Golf and Country Club and try to overcome two welcome challenges to their game: the winds and the waves. As one website states, "In Bali, Nusa Dua is the place to stay,in style."

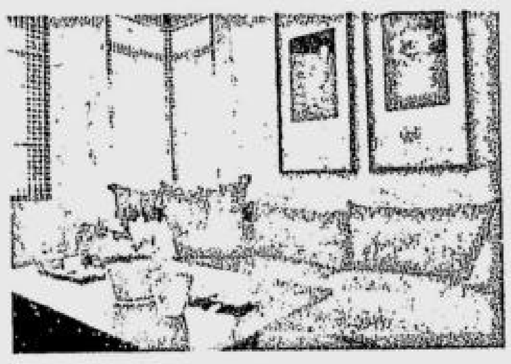
This dictum—a place to stay in style—was brought to life in the country's finest community of resort-inspired residences. The model mansion Nusa Dua at Bali Mansions in South Forbes Golf City is the epitome of luxurious living, according to interior designers Ivy and Cynthia Almario.

East meets West theme

"Nusa Dua is Asian Modern. We came up with an East meets West theme that will appeal to everybody, especially those who are well-traveled. In effect, we have married the two earlier model mansions of Coralia and Lovina," shares Cynthia.



THE MASTER'S suite has lounge chairs and an entertainment set for the enjoyment of guests.



MILANESE-SHAPED Italian sofas mix well with the native woven chairs with large rectangular patterns.

The living room is the first and prime example of how to carry out the East meets West theme in style. Milanese-shaped Italian sofas mix well with the native woven chairs with large rectangular patterns. The theme is carried out as well in the informal breakfast area with its woven benches and in the dining room, with its Chinese panel screens as a design element and ox blood upholstery for the walls. A Coramandel screen keeps affairs private in the dining room, from which the luxurious Bali Mansions Clubhouse can be viewed.

This mansion will surely be on the menu list of chefs and parents who love to cook for their children and guests. Food aficionados will surely love the spacious main kitchen and the all-purpose nook, from which meals can be easily prepared for the informal breakfast area. More intensive cooking chores, meanwhile, can be done in the daily kitchen.

Rooms

Upstairs, luxurious daily living is redefined for the couple in their master's suite. More than just a bedroom, the master's suite even has lounge chairs and an entertainment set for the enjoyment of guests. The terrace adjoining the master's suite is good for afternoon tea sessions with a view of the South Forbes fairways. The silver-gray theme of the suite, with a hint of celadon, helped the designing duo achieve their objectives of taste, luxury and elegance. "We wanted to show it can be luxurious and tailored at the same time," Cynthia says.

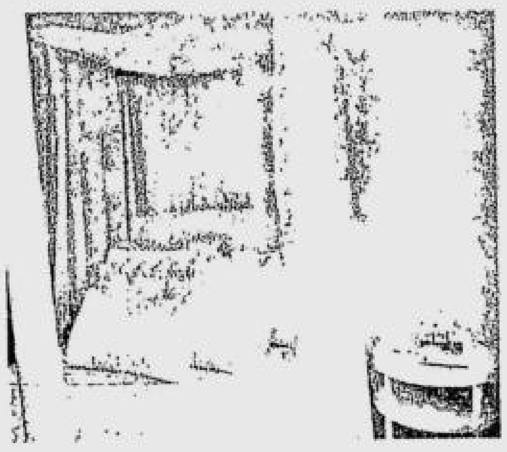
The sisters wanted something different for the girl's room, so they used robins egg blue for the linens and drapes to make it more tailored as well. Meanwhile, the fun element was employed in the boy's room. The white and red ellipses for the wallpaper and the bed go well for an older boy. This room can also double as a guest room, according to the designer. Up one more floor is the attic, which can be used as a family room. It features a plasma TV and surround sound for a true entertainment haven.

Daily resort lifestyle

To liven things up and for a more refreshing look, the sisters used a lot of amaryllis all over Nusa Dua. Be it on a vase in the living room or a series of paintings on the wall beside the dining area, these lovely flowers perhaps define what it means to live in style.

The luxurious Nusa Dua gives prospective home buyers and investors a preview of the daily resort lifestyle that awaits them at Bali Mansions. As a bonus, they will get a free golf membership to the main resort component of this fully integrated, world-class golf resort city. The 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club was designed by no other than Asia's leading golf course designer: the International Management Group (IMG).

To conduct a personal or group tour of the Asian Modern creation that is the Nusa Dua at South Forbes Bali Mansions, call 635-8108 or 636-4647 or visit www.southforbes.com.



ROBINS egg blue for the linens and drapes make the girl's room tailored as well.

A "SHANG-RILA" THAT IS TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS

Tagaytay Highlands, the cherished leisure estate located within the boundaries of the provinces of Cavite, Batangas and Laguna, with all its amenities and pleasurable assets, is indisputably the perfect haven for retirees and those keen on investing in leisure properties.

Developed by Belle Corporation, eleven years ago, this tranquil and secure residential community at the zenith of Tagaytay Hills has blossomed into a great vacation spot for families who enjoy its posh restaurants, karaoke bars, health spa, sports center, two eighteen-hole golf courses, mini golf course, swimming pools, amphitheater, skating rink, billiard hall, video arcade, cinema, animal farm, hiking trail, equestrian park and other facilities.

The impressive array of Highlands' residential communities includes the Belle View, a twelve-storey mountainside condominium that affords one a magnificent view of the world-famous Taal Lake and Volcano; Pinecrest Village, a Swiss-inspired village; the Villas, designed and built along a Southern California theme, and the Parks at Saratoga Hills, which are situated within lush gardens and patios at the Greenlands.

There are more than twenty restaurants that offer an extensive variety of cuisines: Filipino, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Mongolian, Spanish, Italian, French, Mediterranean, Thai and Indonesian. There's Highland's China Palace, Marbella, La Belle Brasserie, Genghis Khan, Asakasa, Chiang Mai, Café de Paris and a lot more. Name it! Tagayatay Highlands has it!

Not to be missed is The Highlands' cable-car system that was built by the man who designed the Sundance Ski Resort in the United States owned by Hollywood celebrity Robert Redford as well as the short but scenic Funicular train ride that links the Highlands with the Midlands.

And being just 45 minutes away from Makati, makes it near enough to the hustle and bustle of city life, yet a world apart once you enter its gates. Its cozy year round climate makes it an idyllic getaway - whether for a day, overnight, a weekend, even the whole week - without spending as much gasoline as going to other resorts might entail.

Tagaytay Highlands also boasts of many recreational outdoor and indoor facilities, sports facilities, helipads and conference meeting rooms and auditorium.

Saratoga Hills has apparently become the preferred choice of Filipino-Americans who are aspiring to own homes back in the Philippines that provide them with all the first world comfort, security, luxuries that they are accustomed to and the value for money and greater return in investment that they ever dreamed of.

The amazing progress of Tagaytay Highlands can be the major reason why Belle Corporation, one of the leading companies engaged in leisure property development in the Philippines, was recently adjudged as "Best in Leisure Property Development" during the 23rd edition of the National Consumers Awards and People's Choice Awards.

Belle Corporation, which started leisure property development operations in 1992, is among the pioneers in club shares market and club lifestyle development and is responsible for developing the Tagaytay Highlands Midlands and Greenlands properties.

Tagaytay Highlands is certainly a vision that has come true not only for Belle Corporation but for the members who have made this brilliant undertaking their weekend retreat, home away from home, and excellent investment.

ADVT.

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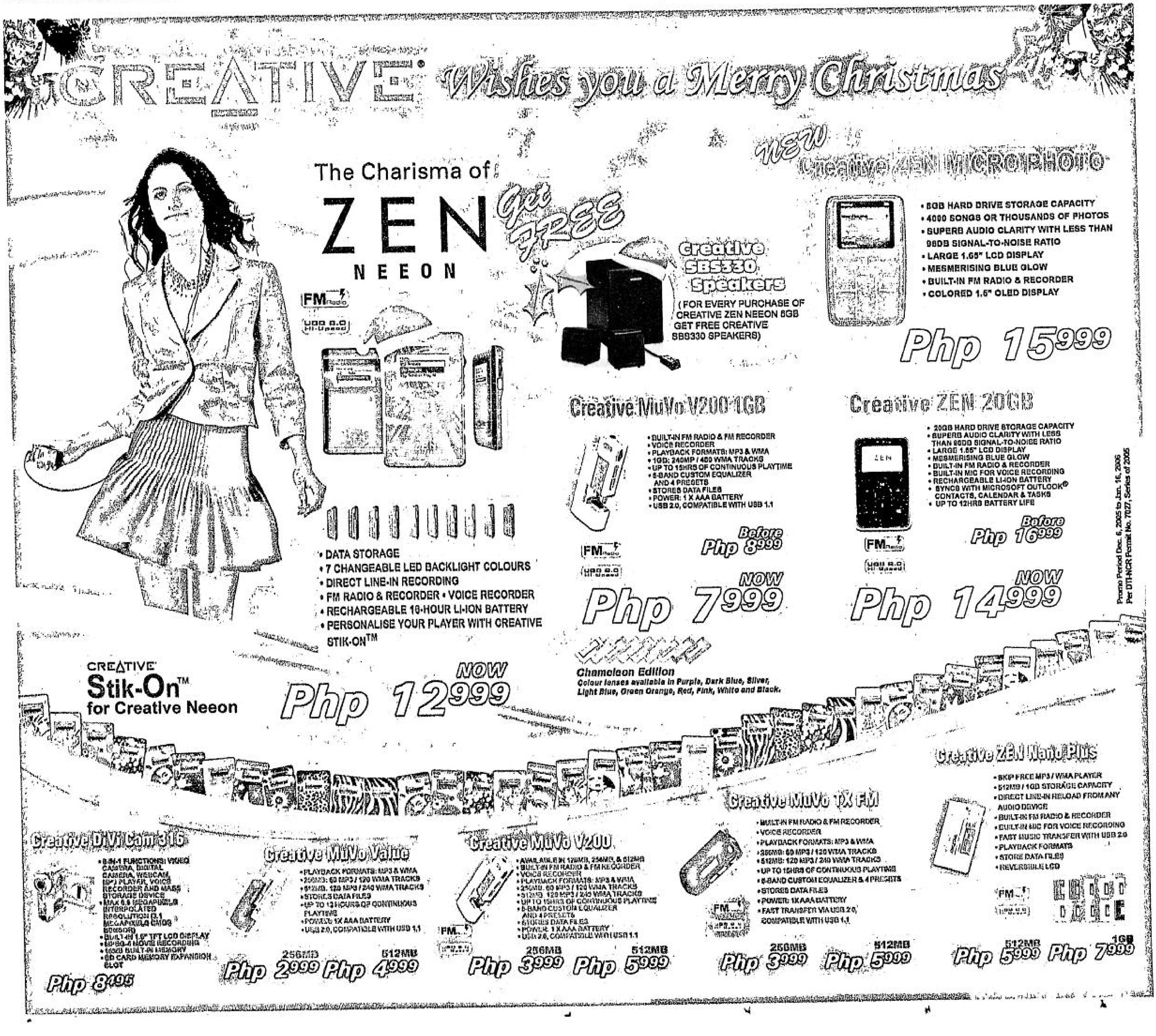
What makes us Super! page D1

Cindy Kurleto's silver streak page F1

NU Rock Awards fun fare & fashiown page F2

'Lost' page C2 in the point of no return

[illegible]
Photography MARK NICDAO
Make-up CHRISTINE DUQUE
Stylist JAMES REYES
Original artwork [illegible]
Cover [illegible] CINDY KURLETO
[illegible] SILVER WORKS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Lost to the point of no return

Her royal highness designer Princess Charina Sarte

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

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The Minx swim line is a collection of "statement swimsuits" embodying the alternative mix of aesthetics and utility. Manifested in a piece in the line is a distinctive design well thought of by its creator.

The woman behind it all is Princess Sarte. Princess says she's designing for ladies who want to be glamorous whether they're at the beach, in a pool, or even clubbing. (Clubbing in swimwear? *Ayos!*)

We Filipinos are the first in the world to see these creations. (We say we put Minx in a Wonders of the World list). Pretty soon, girls (and guys who enjoy swimsuits on girls), from halfway across the world might enjoy Minx as well. Go, Pinoy!

Super! Speed Talk!

What are your sources of inspiration? My holiday collection is inspired by gowns designed by foreign designers such as Lanvin, YSL and Valentino. I saw these fabulous gowns and I thought I'd love to be in the pool wearing that. So I made swimsuit versions of them.

What's your over all brand and design philosophy? Minx is for women who want to wear something special when they are at the beach—whether it's an intricate maillot, a flowy beach gown or a slinky jersey coverup. I have heard people say, "It's something you'd wear if you were in St. Tropez." It's very glamorous and contemporary. There is nothing plain about it.

What role does design play in your day-to-day life? Design is something I do to express myself. Fortunately, it's also a job that I love.

What fuels you? Passion.

I'd faint if I see ____ wearing my designs. Kate Moss.

I design as a result of ... my love for fashion.

I can't work without ... inspiration.

I can't work with ... fear.

What's next for you? I have always said that I want to be able to sell my designs overseas. I'm currently in negotiations now with people from London and Australia who are interested to do that for me.

Do you design for princesses too? I consider all my clients as princesses.

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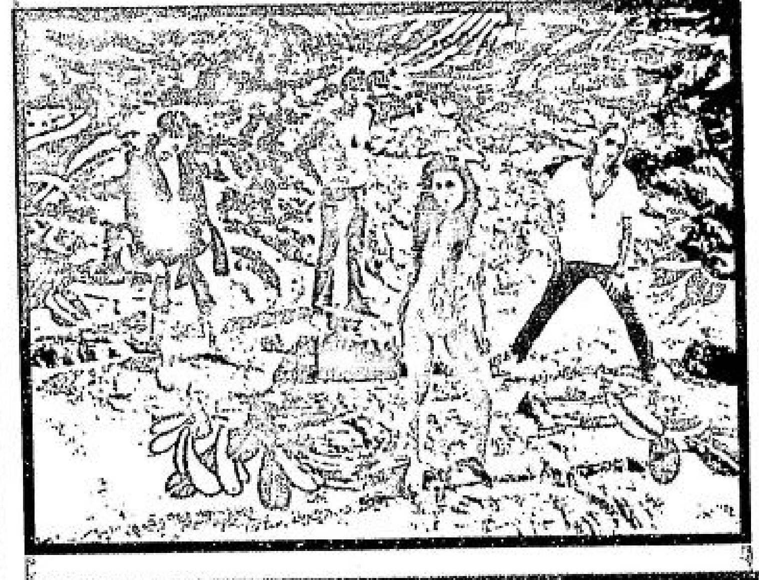

'Lost' is changing the boob tube landscape—and us

By James Gabrillo
Photos by Emman Montalvan

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Unlike crappy reality shows like "Temptation Island" and "Paradise Hotel," it goes beyond the win or lose concept, tackling issues of inner struggles and philosophical ideas. It even tackles themes of single parenthood, incest, drug addiction and terrorism.

Good ol' storytelling that's dizzying

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To comprehend the ongoing narrative, one has to put together pieces of events in the past episodes. In a way, the show is challenging us to think and process concepts by providing us with enough clues and winks.

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What's compelling about the series is the awesome character development, with back stories and flashbacks smoothly seeping in. Because of this, we develop a strong attachment to the series' personalities, as if they live next door.

Hit!

"Everyone deserves a fresh start," says Jack, the doctor and rational figure in the island, where survivors are slowly erasing bad events in their past.

This idea of starting new lives greatly appeals to us viewers, who also tend to want to forget several things that have happened before.

More than anything else, watching "Lost" reminds us of being human and how we have to tackle pickles along the way.

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All denim courtesy of Viktor Jeans (09178504543). Swimwear by Minx (09179011922). Available in Souk gallery, House of Laurel and Culte Femme Rustan's

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Where the Bad girls go

The places, the curses and the strange graffiti encountered on the road, somewhere in the middle of nowhere

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

"Good girls go to heaven,
Bad girls go everywhere"
–scribbled on the girls' bathroom stall, in a hostel by the Caribbean

"A bare bleak hill 'outside Mexico City' and I'm hiding in holes, looking towards the ocean for which it is also a strange beach, people come looking for me in the rippling winds..."
–Jack Kerouac, "Book of Dreams"

I SHARE SOMETHING WITH Jack Kerouac, from his compendium of reveries. Only mine wasn't a dream.

A year ago in Mexico.

I woke up, looked outside my window, and realized I had missed the pyramids.

In broken, inflected Spanish, I asked the bus driver to pull over, tried to reason with him that my mind had somehow drifted off and so I had missed my stop. I could just read his mind and all the expletives that raced through it: crazy gringa who thinks the world revolves around her, *pu*a madre*! Finally, he opened the doors and allowed me to step down. He sped off right before the doors could slice my body in two. So there I stood, alone, on a dusty, lost highway somewhere in the Yucatan, with not a soul in sight. A gust of wind blew tufts of dried grass about me as I walked on, on that scorched road. The uneclipsed, noonday sun deep-fried my bare skin. I squinted at the vast blue sky that stretched on forever, felt the flying sand whip my legs, took a deep breath, and said to myself...ho...ly...shit.

I was lost, a stranger in Nowhereville, Mexico, with no sign to point me anywhere. I could keep on walking until I passed out from the heat. Or I could hitchhike, yes, hitchhike—flag down the next passing car and pray I wouldn't get abducted after begging the driver to take me to my intended destination. And in that moment of being lost, lonely, mapless and sunburned, I thought to myself, *this is what it's all about.*

What, me? A Nowhereian?

It's what I've come to live for: pushing the limits of my sanity and humanity all in the name of that great adventure along that road. It is my own creation story: how I build by drawing inspiration from the vast unknown.

"Nowhereian" is the term that Pico Iyer coined: free agents with a global soul journeying through the unmarked trails in the world's landscape. "Generation Lonely Planet" was what the back of a travel guide called this particular subculture. Some of my friends simply call it all "crazy." To a certain degree, it is pretty hair-brained, especially at a time when society decrees me to take root somewhere, with someone, to buy furniture and life insurance, and not spend my racket wages on mad adventures.

Instead of reasons, I have stories. Stories of overnight bus rides and bread-and-cracker meals and sleeping on hammocks whilst surrounded by mosquitoes the size of coconuts. Tales of oddball jobs, like bartending for coins in a reggae bar by the Pacific, waitressing at a small café in suburban Sydney and then getting fired two weeks later because I couldn't balance five plates at a time.

There was always "that time" taking on colors and shadows. That time I ran through fields of tequila at sunset, or rather, wounding myself as I ran through a plantation of spiny *agave* plants before it was harvested to make tequila. That time when I stared at the red pinprick of Mars over Angkor Wat. The exact time when the Blue Mountains in Australia actually took on a shade of blue. The time I got caught in a fierce thunderstorm as I was hiking through a field of wild grass somewhere in Capiz. The time when all the colors melted and danced as soon as a glassful of potent shrooms, legal in Bali, finally took its effect, at a dingy bar called Midnight Oil. There was the first time I ever saw the Caribbean Sea.

All the people

Then of course, there were the people. The Aztec ritual dancer who singled me out from the crowd after his performance, asked me where I was from and thereafter exclaimed, "Las Filipinas! Andres Bonifacio!" The pure-hearted Cambodian kids by the temples who wrote me their good wishes in scraps of notebook paper. The American backpacker on a bus who recommended the film, "What the Bleep do we Know?" and after an hours' worth of pseudo-intellectual banter and book swapping, proceeded to drop the worst pick-up lines in the history of worst pick-up lines. There were the stoned ruffians in the south of Brazil who adopted me for one marvelous sunset, the artists who painted surfers, and the bona fide Rastafarians chilling by the beach, mon! The crazy Aussie chicks who loved Kylie and loved all the more the Israeli backpacker's staying at our hostel. The two Italian dads and an orange bikini-clad French girl who took me on an ocean drive in a beat-up convertible with jazz songs streaming forth from a mini radio. The old fortune teller who read my palm and in ten different languages told me that I "like to fly-fly."

A nomad's manifesto

The best part about it all is the homecoming, when I come back having survived it all. I've evolved somehow, and better equipped to give back to the world. I think of the kindness shown by strangers and channel it into something real, in honor of them. If I am so grateful for who I am today, it is not just because of friends, but also because of the strangers who offered me their kinship. And if I am so disdainful of certain actions, like littering, it's because I think it's a sign of disrespect to the world we live in. Or belittling, because there are so many things far greater than me. If I find myself in the dirtiest, crowded streets among people who are hungry and ask for spare change, I don't feel that I am better than them, because this world has its way of humbling you into understanding that human suffering is something we all share. Because of what I have experienced out there, in this borderless world, I am very

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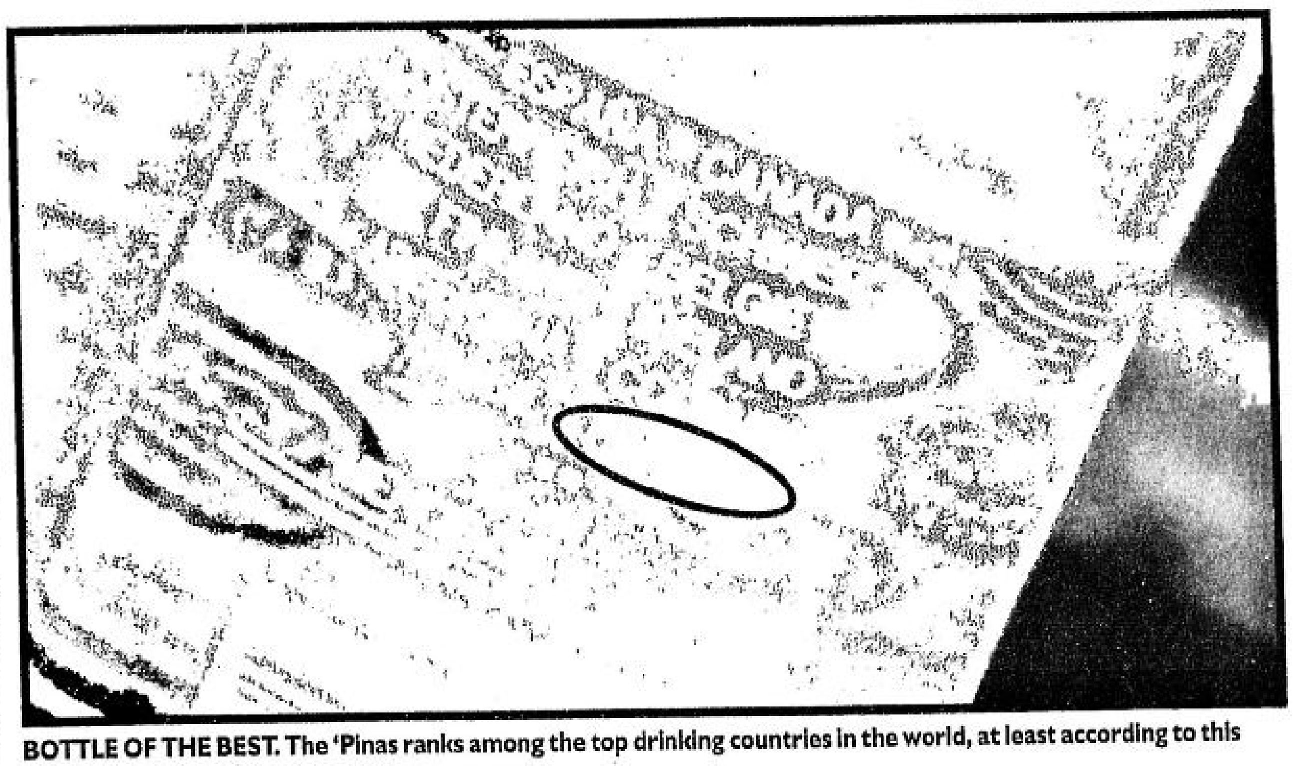
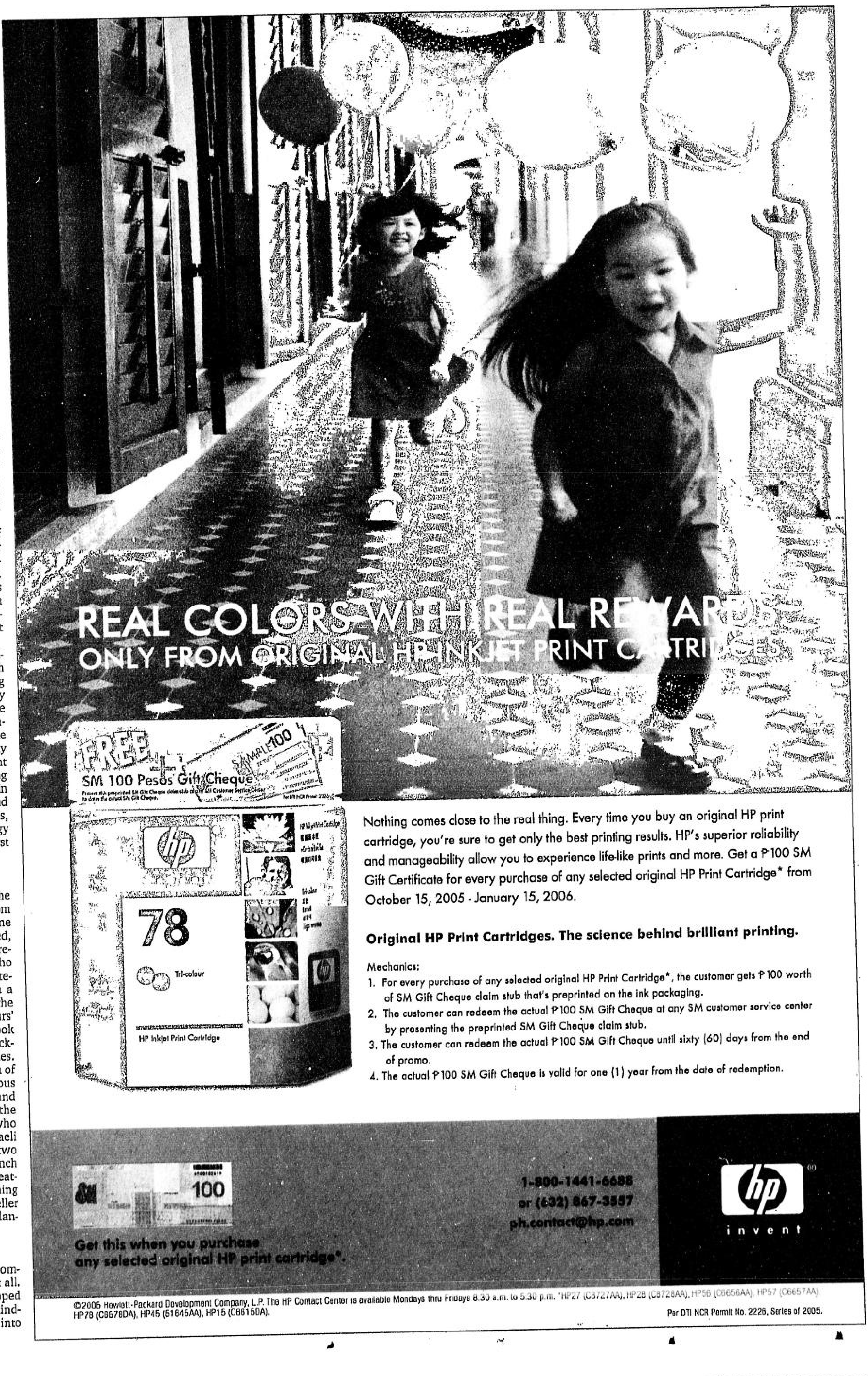


BOTTLE OF THE BEST. The 'Pinas ranks among the top drinking countries in the world, at least according to this Mexican beer brand.



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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 2226, Series of 2005.

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DISNEYLAND

Visa Hong Kong Disneyland Getaway

Have a magical vacation in Hong Kong Disneyland the Visa way -- get a chance to win a round trip for a family of 4 to Hong Kong Disneyland. Plus enjoy breakfast with your favorite Disney characters, and receive 2 FASTPASS tickets per guest (8 for a family of 4) for line reservations in selected rides and shows.

Be mesmerized and dazzled with the 4 magical worlds of Hong Kong Disneyland. Experience what it was like in the turn of the 20th Century in **Main Street, USA**. Be intrigued at the mysterious jungle of **Adventureland**. Meet Mickey and all his friends in **Fantasyland** and blast into outer space at futuristic **Tomorrowland**! Timeless tales and bold adventures are brought magically to life for children of all ages.

Mechanics:

1. Promo Period: 27 November 2005 to 24 January 2006.
2. Minimum of ₱500 single-receipt Visa purchase will allow Visa cardholder to register his/her Visa transaction for a chance to win one (1) of seven (7) Family of Four packages to Hong Kong Disneyland on March 2-4, 2006. PLUS HK$5,000 pocket money*.

How to join?

Register your Visa transactions at any of the following available channels:

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SMS: Text Visa for details. ₱2.50 per text will be charged.	Globe - 2361 Smart - 325 Visa <name as it appears on card,address,issuing bank,last 4 digit,amount of transaction,date of transaction,time of transaction> and send to the corresponding access number of your mobile network. (Note that there are no spaces after each comma. Please do not use commas for amounts more than ₱999.99, and when entering the address.) Ex. Visa MENNIE SO,24/F 6750 AYALA AVENUE MAKATI CITY,AIG,1234,1000.25,112705,1808

2. Call Center: Metro Manila - 637 2768, Provincial - Toll Free # 1800-1888-2591
3. Website: www.hblmasia.com/visa

Disney VISA

*Per family of four
*See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No 3082, Series of 2005

Where . . .

From page C3

much aware that I should be more responsible as a human being.

The creative force is stronger,,because this world inspires me. The world does not revolve around me, I revolve around the world.

A Nowhereian goes everywhere, where they say the bad girls go, and then discover what the Creator once saw—that it was good.

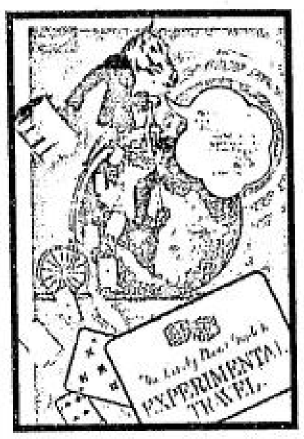
Really good.

Off-the-Beaten-Track Records

FOR THE WANDERING TYPES who just don't do package tours—ditch those cliché travel guides and get your paws on these pages:

The Lonely Planet Guide to Experimental Travel

This book introduces you to the world of experimental travel. Eh? It's filled with alternative travel challenges, such as spending 24 hours in an airport without getting on a plane, erotourism or erotic tourism, or "mascot traveling" by picking a personal mascot like a stuffed toy or a doll, and taking photos of it at interesting points. There's even a bit about backpacking at home—for people who love the backpacking subculture but don't have the time or cash to do so.

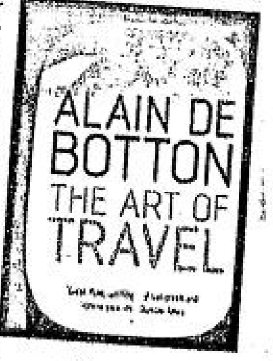


The Gringo Trail
by Mark Mann

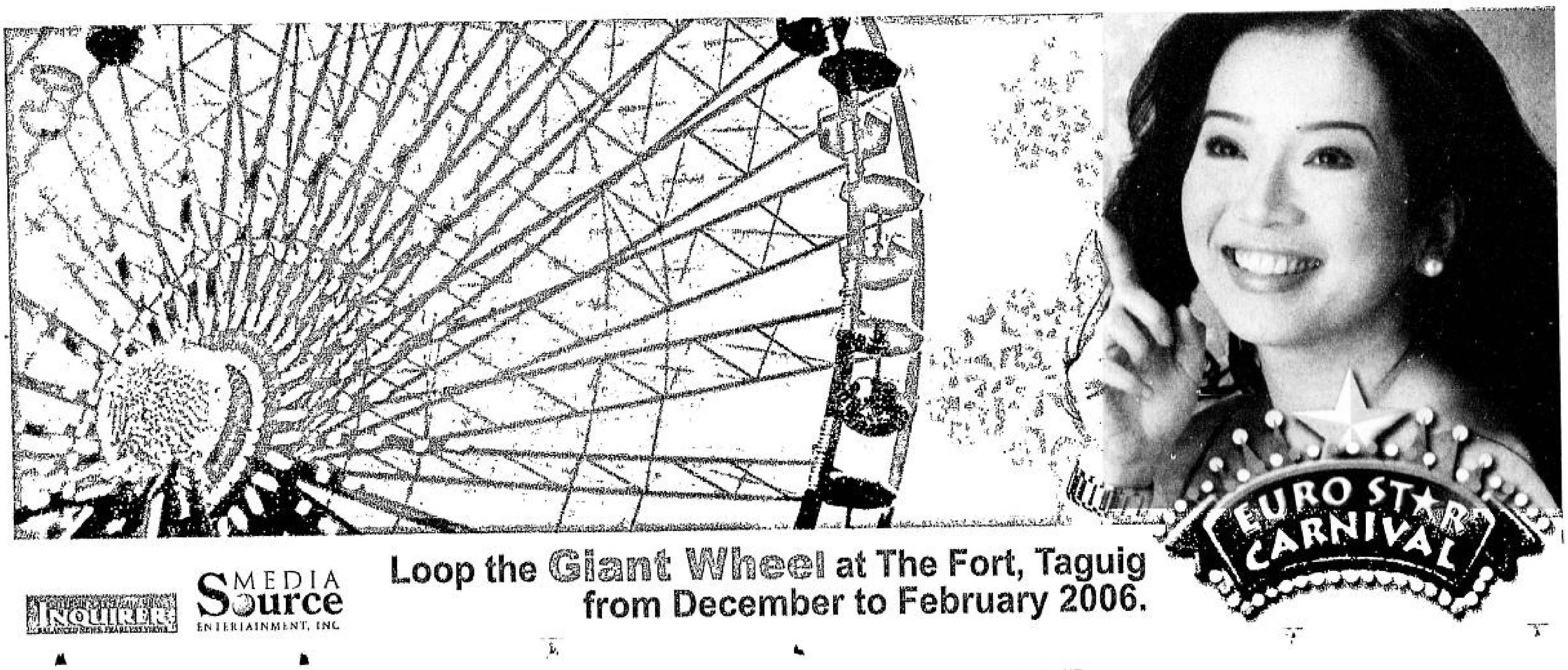
The story, written before Alex Garland's bestseller, "The Beach," is a frenetic backpacker's journey through Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Colombia. You get a firsthand account of the dreams, the drama, and well, the drugs that were all part of journeying through the Gringo Trail. What's cool about this, other than the stunning descriptions of the Andes and Amazonia, are the inserted historical and cultural tidbits throughout. Like, did you know that cocaine was once sanctioned by the Catholic Church, who controlled the trade when they found out the coca substance made the Indians work harder? Talk about eye-opening lines!

The Art of Travel
by Alain de Botton

We usually ask where to travel. This wonderful book explores the why. Written by Alain de Botton ("The Romantic Movement"), it's filled with philosophical insights, references to Wordsworth, Delacroix and Van Gogh, even artworks depicting the grand and mundane map points in the world. You'll be traveling even without leaving your seat.



(All books available at Fully Booked.)



Loop the Giant Wheel at The Fort, Taguig
from December to February 2006.

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Mechanics:

Promo Period: 27 November 2005 24 J

Minimum of ₱500 single-receipt Visa purchase a t

Family of Four packages to Hong Kong Disneyland on Ma ke

How to join?

Register your Visa tr sa s at an

SMS
Text Visa for details
₱2.50 per text will be charged.

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and send to the corresponding obile n Note that there are spaces after

Please do not use commas for amounts 99, and whe entering the address.

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Metro Manila 637 2768, P 888

www.h masia.co

DISNEY VISA

Where . . .

From page C3

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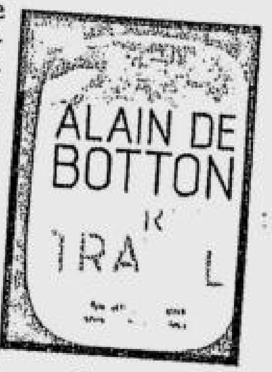

(All books available at Fully Booked.)

EURO STAR CARNIVAL

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Loop the Giant Wheel at The Fort, Taguig
from December to February 2006.

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SEATTLE'S BEST

FERNANDO SENA

PINOY SUPERIORITY AWAKENED

The scoop on Super!

By Tim Yap and Pam Pastor

WE CLOSED AN ENTIRE AIRPORT and filled its runway with models. We gave up our days to follow celebrities 24 hours straight. We flew to Hong Kong for a photo shoot and stopped traffic in Causeway Bay. We brought together over twenty of today's most promising young talents in different fields and gave them the spotlight. We rocked Manila society with a killer exposé. We interviewed celebrities even before they arrived in Manila. We were the first to break the news of several celebrity engagements and so many pregnancies. (We like it when they pop!) We were the first to invade the Pinoy Big Brother House. We predicted the careers of many of today's topbillers in show biz, music and fashion. Our manifestos have become pop culture testaments and a trend hunter's treasure chest. Our photo shoots were crystal balls that showcased what was to come. We've discovered our readers' caption-writing abilities. We've coined new terms that became part of today's vocabulary. In short, we have redefined today's visual culture. We made young people read again.

Our ideas have been copied and recopied but never duplicated.

We've made writers out of celebrities and celebrities out of writers.

We threw seven-day parties and hardly spent a cent—for two years straight. We hosted an unprecedented bazaar that brought together artists and celebrities under one roof for an entire day. We gave awards to people—even in categories that are often overlooked.

We provided a blank canvas for artists who want to share their work. We held screenings for budding filmmakers who we believe can make a difference in Philippine cinema. We helped global Filipino talents fly to international competitions so they can be recognized in foreign shores. We've provided the bridge from the underground to the mainstream and people have been happily crossing it. (Who says you have to be one or the other?) We've raised funds for those who need them. We find causes and fight for them.

We continue to push the Super! generation to realize that this is their time, that the world is theirs, that they shouldn't wait. We provide the possibilities for them to make choices in multiples of style, urban living, pop culture, entertainment and recreation. We believe labels belong on shirts and bags and not on people and so we arm our readers with tools to further strengthen the core of their identity. We believe that living life is not just about existing and floating along, it's about taking risks, redefining boundaries, jumping—no, somersaulting—over hurdles, and turning things upside down to find another way of looking at things. We believe in living the Super! life.

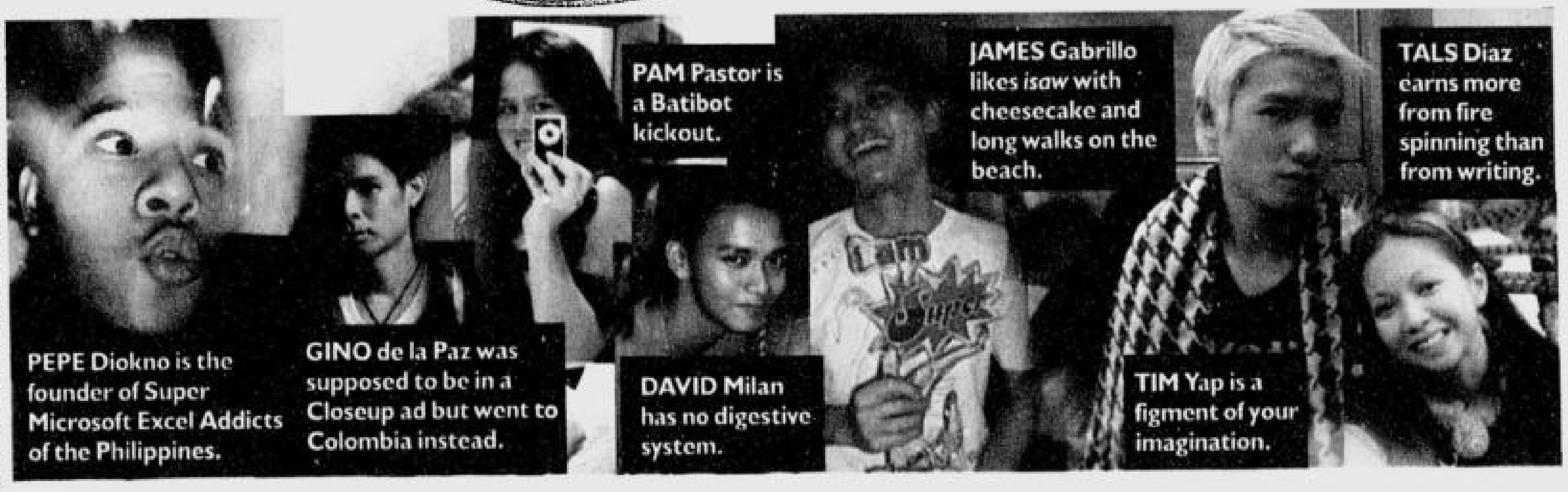
Our motto is women empowerment, men empowerment, gay empowerment, youth empowerment. Empowerment, period.

In this era of insecurity and colonialism, of first worlds and third worlds, of a society divided into classes, of champagne wishes and caviar dreams, we aim to trample on these concepts and push one mindset. To awaken the Filipino's sense of superiority.

We look back at what we've done in a thanksgiving of sorts that our Super! section is an offspring of the country's most influential name in journalism. We are grateful to be in a place where freedom reigns and where the creative spirit is fostered.

We look forward to more pages, more innovations and more lives changed.

In the end, we want every Filipino to say, "I am Super."



PEPE Diokno is the founder of Super Microsoft Excel Addicts of the Philippines.

GINO de la Paz was supposed to be in a Closeup ad but went to Colombia instead.

PAM Pastor is a Batibot kickout.

DAVID Milan has no digestive system.

JAMES Gabrillo likes *isaw* with cheesecake and long walks on the beach.

TIM Yap is a figment of your imagination.

TALS Diaz earns more from fire spinning than from writing.

gift gate

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FIRST TIME EVER

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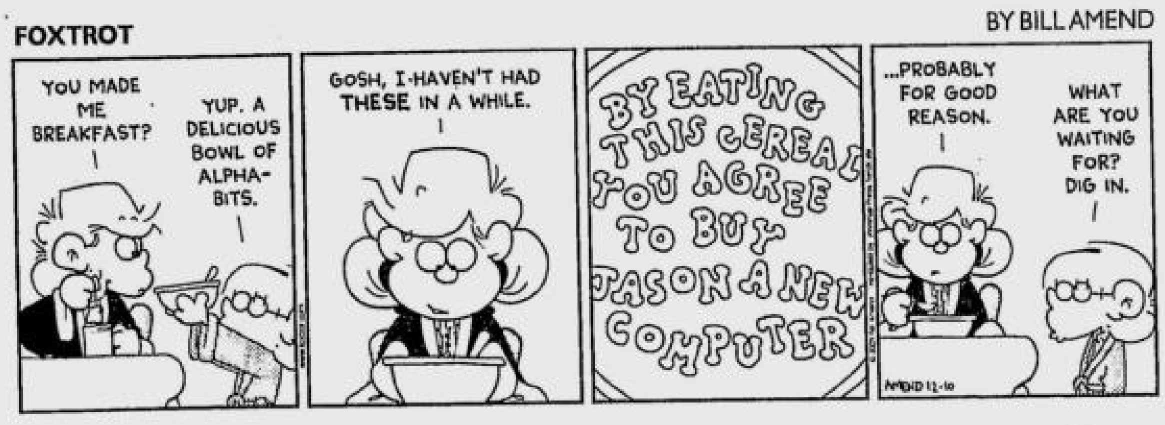
Promo Period: Dec. 9-15, 2005 Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 7097, Series of 2005.

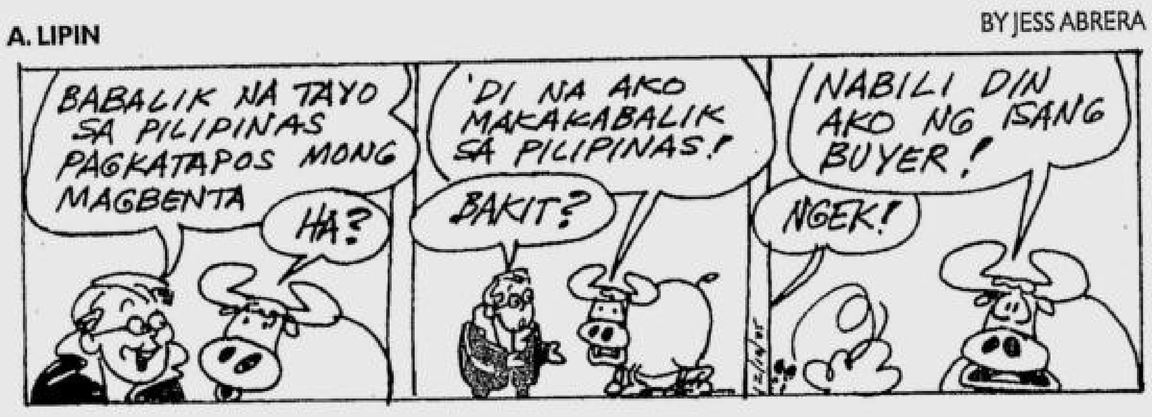
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


YOU MADE ME BREAKFAST?
YUP. A DELICIOUS BOWL OF ALPHA-BITS.
GOSH, I HAVEN'T HAD THESE IN A WHILE.
BY EATING THIS CEREAL YOU AGREE TO BUY JASON A NEW COMPUTER
...PROBABLY FOR GOOD REASON.
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? DIG IN.
AMEND 12-10

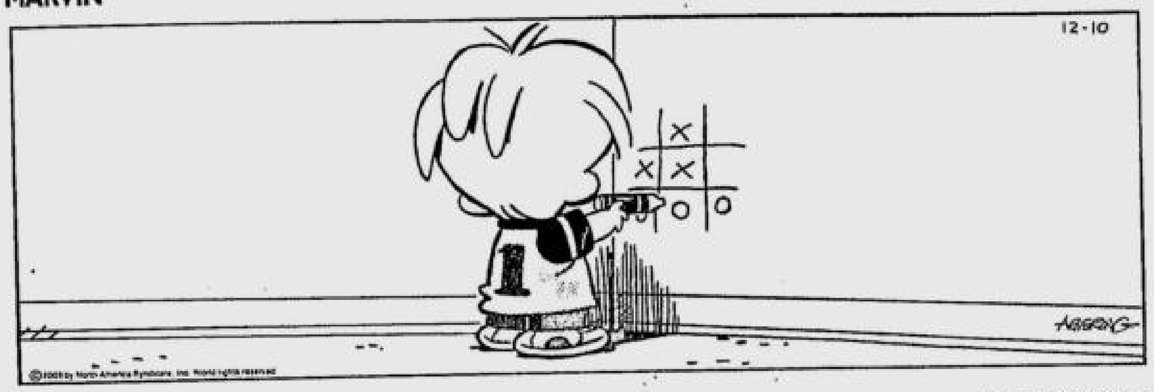
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


BABALIK NA TAYO SA PILIPINAS PAGKATAPOS MONG MAGBENTA
HA?
'DI NA AKO MAKAKABALIK SA PILIPINAS!
BAKIT?
NABILI DIN AKO NG ISANG BUYER!
NGEK!

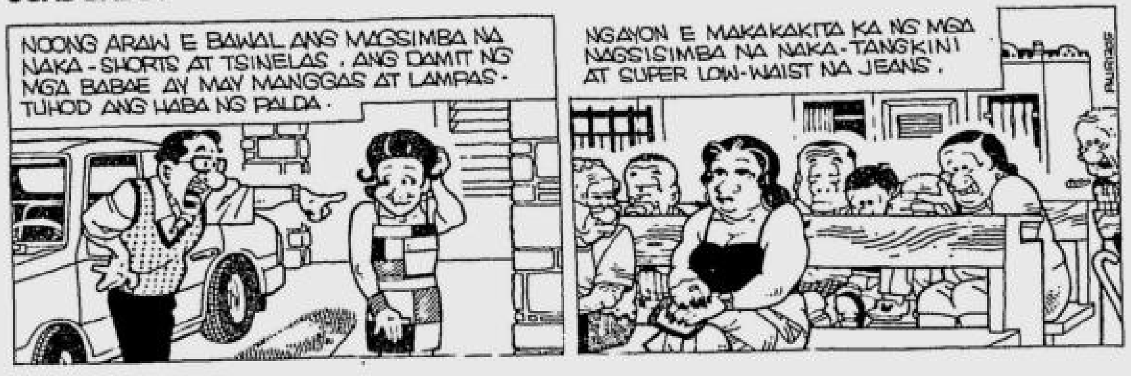
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


12-10
ARMSTRONG

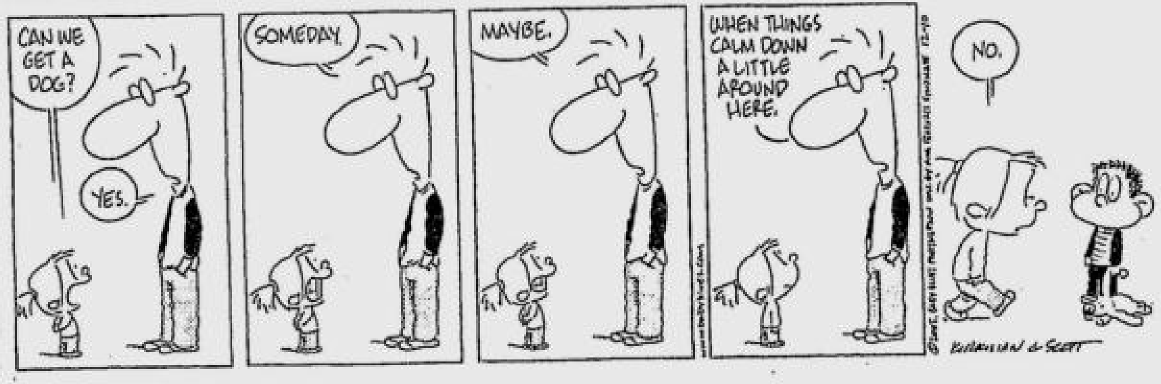
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NOONG ARAW E BAWAL ANG MAGSIMBA NA NAKA-SHORTS AT TSINELAS, ANG DAMIT NG MGA BABAE AY MAY MANGGAS AT LAMPAS-TUHOD ANG HABA NG PALDA.
NGAYON E MAKAKAKITA KA NG MGA NAGSISIMBA NA NAKA-TANGKINI AT SUPER LOW-WAIST NA JEANS.

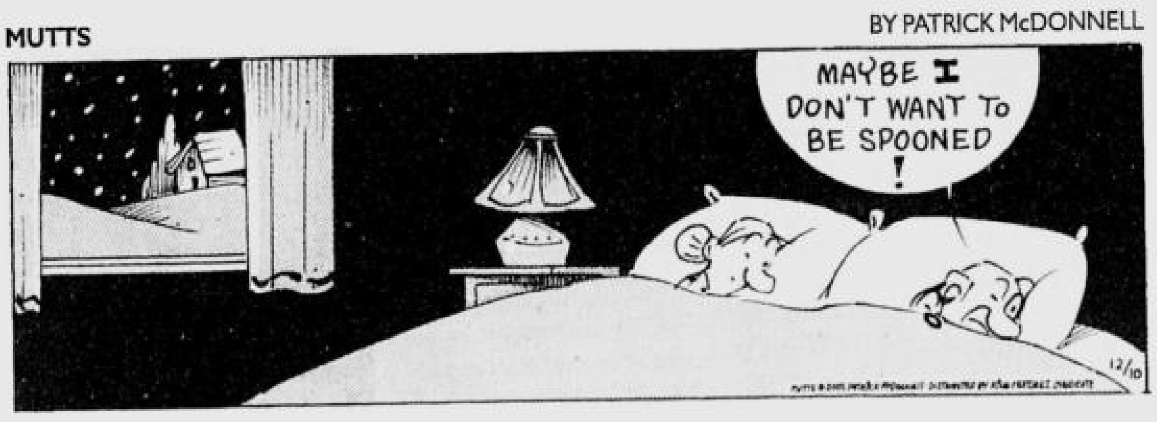
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN WE GET A DOG?
YES.
SOMEDAY.
MAYBE.
WHEN THINGS CALM DOWN A LITTLE AROUND HERE.
NO.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

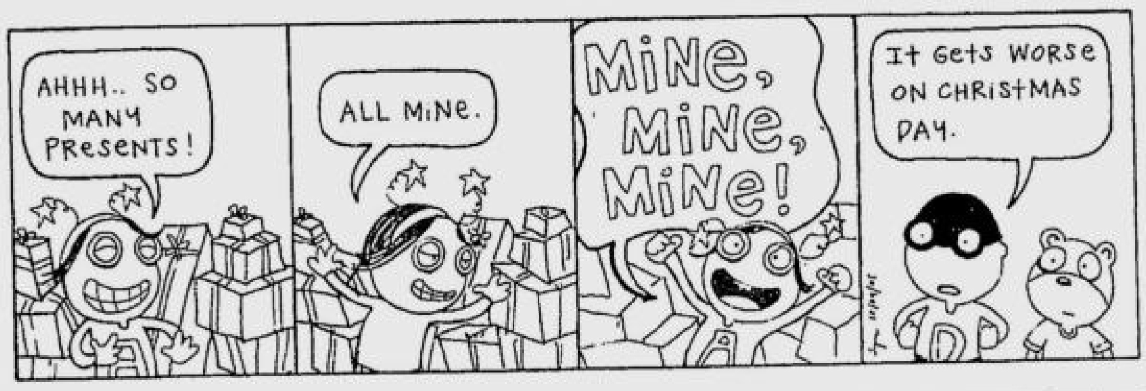
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MAYBE I DON'T WANT TO BE SPOONED!
12/10

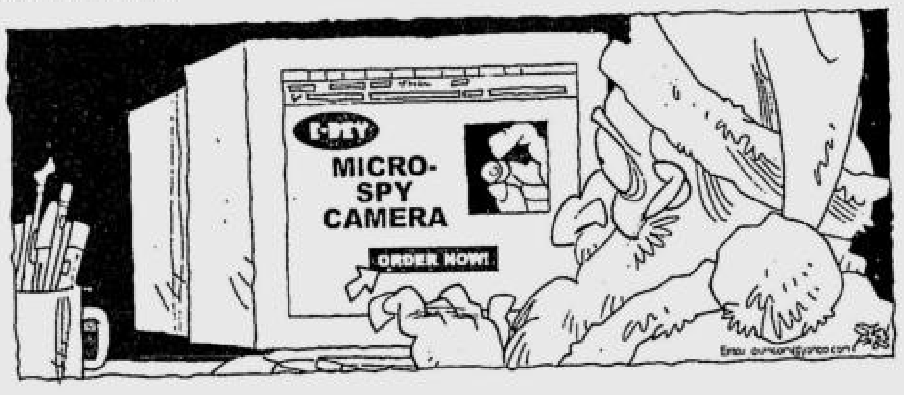
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


AHHH.. SO MANY PRESENTS!
ALL MINE.
MINE, MINE, MINE!
IT GETS WORSE ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MICRO-SPY CAMERA
ORDER NOW!

HOW SANTA KNOWS IF YOU HAVE BEEN BAD OR GOOD

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're a philosopher in search of truth. You have a strong sense of justice; you value wisdom. You know that appreciation is necessary to the enjoyment of life. Your idealism attracts others of like mind to you. (You enjoy friends.) In some manner, you will be presented with an important choice in the year ahead. Choose wisely.

Birthdate of: Emily Dickinson, poet; Kenneth Branagh, actor; Susan Dey, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Many of you are trying to figure out what you really want to be when you grow up (no matter what age you are). You want to sing your song!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): It's important to establish a strong base of operations for you and your family. Renovate, fix up and repair your home so that you feel secure about it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Most of you can sense that you probably have a job change or residential move in the next few years. Start to lighten up. Get ready for this.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It's time to get serious about what you want to do to earn money. Privately, you're giving a lot of thought to your basic values system. What will make you happy?

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Some of you continue to let go of things or give things away. Others are already in a new sandbox. Either way, you're embarking on a whole new journey.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's important to know that in the next few years you're going to have to lighten your possessions. Start to get rid of whatever is no longer relevant in your life.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): It's important to do what you want right now, because this is a powerful time in your life. Form working units. Success comes through partnerships now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is your hour. In the next few years, you will dazzle others. Your peers will see how excellent you are. Don't be afraid to reach for the brass ring.

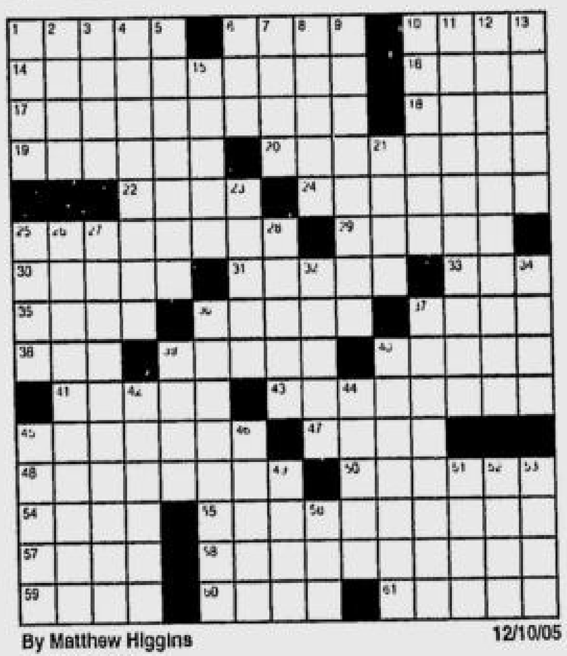
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is your time of preparation. A career peak in about two years awaits you. Therefore, get down to work right now. Do what needs to be done.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): What a popular year ahead! Accept invitations from others. Join clubs and organizations. Working with others can help you now; it will also lift your spirits.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your career looks wonderful this year. Lucky Jupiter is slowly moving across the top of your chart, bringing opportunities and important people your way.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't forget that old saying that genius is 90 percent hard work. It's time to show people your geniuslike qualities! Work hard to show others what you can really do.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Matthew Higgins
Concord, NH
12/10/05

ACROSS
1 Florida student
6 Capital Fellini film
10 Learning method
14 Of the ear
16 Mimicked
17 Olympian prizes
18 Statesman Acheson
19 Alphas' opposites
20 Bulgarian monetary unit
22 "Do __ others as..."
24 Stirs to action
25 Cure-alls
29 Cash in hand, e.g.
30 False alarm
31 Mountain lakes
33 Fr. holy woman
35 Dart nimbly
36 Pennsylvania Dutch symbols
37 Sentry's command
38 Little tyke
39 Light-show light
40 Hale-Bopp, e.g.
41 Minute arachnids
43 Khartoum populace
45 EMS devices
47 Infamous Roman tyrant
48 More klutzy
50 Diverse
54 Float up
55 Possible to abolish
57 Bakery worker
58 Religious indifference
59 Chaotic state
60 Birch or beech
61 Cell destructions

DOWN
1 Type of dancer
2 Particle
3 Lacquered metalware
4 Party conservatives
5 Love story
6 Freed
7 Andes tubers
8 Mediterranean republic
9 Losers
10 Half the diameter
11 Keyless-entry phrase?
12 Stove-top whistlers
13 Best and O'Brien
15 "Beau __"
21 Flip
23 "Them" author
25 Attention getter
26 Partner in wrongdoing
27 Spiral-shelled mollusks
28 Big-band section
32 Broadcast again
34 Feminizing suffix
36 Most precipitate
37 Like unearned degrees
39 Eye part
40 Long-eared African wildcat
42 Stopwatches
44 Beelzebub
45 Theatrical drop curtain
46 Senegalese language
49 Track event
51 Sacred Nile bird
52 Otherwise
53 Reps. counterparts
56 Expected

Friday's Puzzle Solved

R	A	G	S	■	F	I	L	M	■	O	Z	A	W	A
E	L	O	I	■	A	M	O	R	■	B	E	L	O	W
S	E	M	P	E	R	P	H	I	■	S	A	L	V	E
A	R	E	■	V	I	S	A	■	B	E	L	I	E	S
W	O	R	S	E	N	■	N	E	L	S	O	N	■	■
■	■	■	W	R	A	P	■	M	U	S	T	A	R	D
F	I	N	A	L	■	E	M	I	R	■	■	R	E	O
I	R	O	N	Y	■	G	A	G	■	A	S	H	E	N
N	A	T	■	■	A	L	E	R	■	G	H	O	S	T
E	N	H	A	N	C	E	■	E	C	H	O	■	■	■
■	■	I	C	E	A	G	E	■	H	A	T	A	R	I
W	I	N	C	E	D	■	L	Y	E	S	■	X	I	V
E	G	G	E	D	■	S	W	E	E	T	I	E	P	I
S	O	N	D	E	■	G	A	L	S	■	F	L	E	E
T	R	U	E	D	■	T	Y	P	E	■	S	S	R	S

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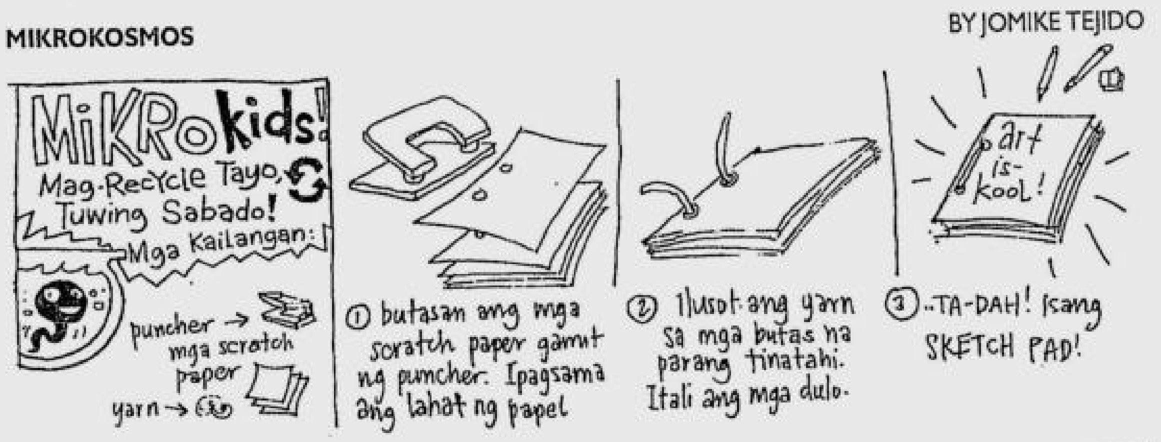
12/10/05

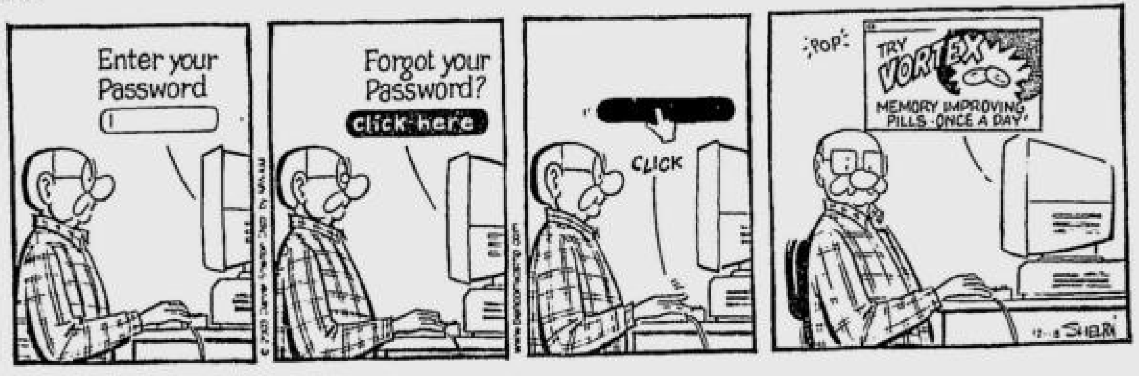
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MiKRo kids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo, Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:
puncher →
mga scratch paper
yarn →
① butasan ang mga scratch paper gamit ng puncher. Ipagsama ang lahat ng papel
② Ilusot ang yarn sa mga butas na parang tinatahi. Itali ang mga dulo.
③ ..TA-DAH! Isang SKETCH PAD!
art is kool!

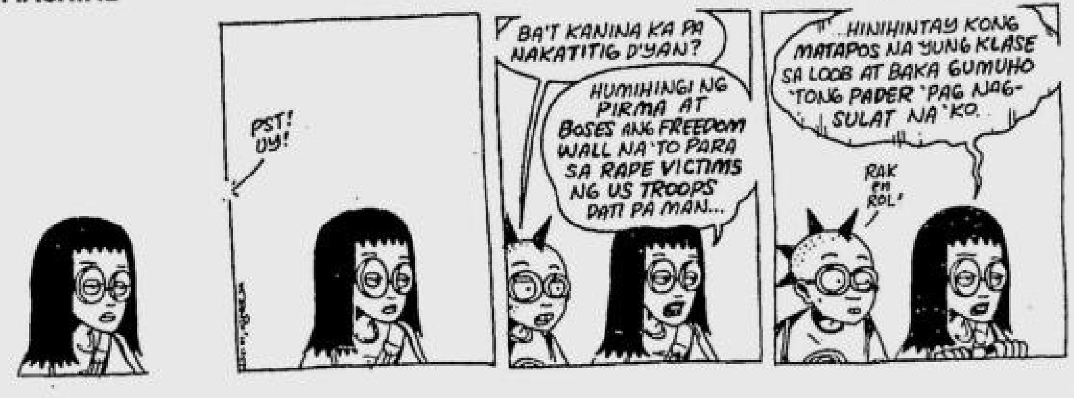
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


Enter your Password
Forgot your Password?
click here
CLICK
POP
TRY VORTEX
MEMORY IMPROVING PILLS - ONCE A DAY
SHELTON

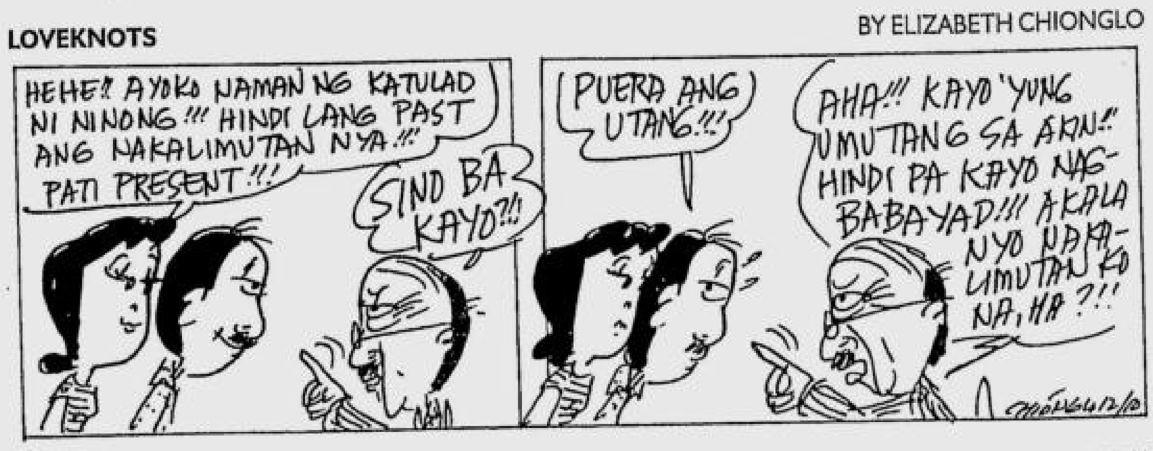
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


PST! UY!
BA'T KANINA KA PA NAKATITIG D'YAN?
HUMIHINGI NG PIRMA AT BOSES ANG FREEDOM WALL NA 'TO PARA SA RAPE VICTIMS NG US TROOPS DATI PA MAN...
HINIHINTAY KONG MATAPOS NA YUNG KLASE SA LOOB AT BAKA GUMUHO 'TONG PADER 'PAG NAG-SULAT NA 'KO.
RAK EN ROL!

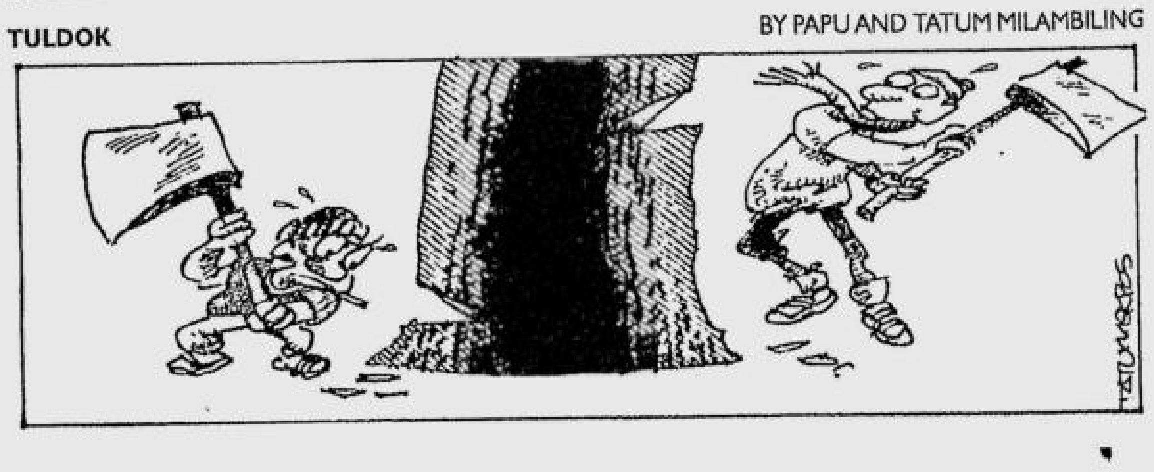
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

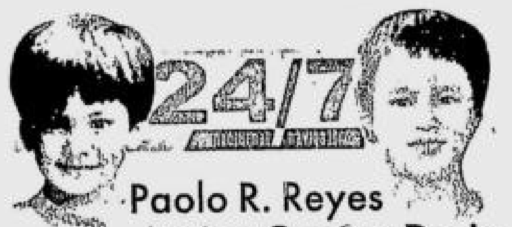

HEHE!! AYOKO NAMAN NG KATULAD NI NINONG!!! HINDI LANG PAST ANG NAKALIMUTAN NYA!!! PATI PRESENT!!!
SINO BA KAYO?!!
PUERA ANG UTANG!!!
AHA!!! KAYO 'YUNG UMUTANG SA AKIN!! HINDI PA KAYO NAGBABAYAD!!! AKALA NYO NAKALIMUTAN KO NA, HA?!!
CHIONGLO 12/10

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



One for the Road



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cueñca-Dario

FAST FOOD FAVORITES RUN APLENTY in the city, but if you find yourself truly starved after a full night of partying, 24/7 recommends swinging by these all-night establishments for a filling snack (a.k.a. breakfast) before heading home: Embassy Cafeteria (steak and eggs, anyone?), Filling Station (classic American diner cuisine at its finest), Old Swiss Inn (the perfect pit stop for, uh, pork knuckles), Something Fishy (a killer buffet with everything from pancakes to *pal-abok* for P80!), and Ziggurat (sumptuous Middle Eastern dishes served 'round clock).

Sense of Wonder @ Fully Booked Promenade Greenhills, Dec. 10

Catch the grand launch of "Siglo: Passion," "Project Hero," and "The 1st Philippine Speculative Fiction Anthology" at 6:30 p.m. in the best book store in the entire universe—Fully Booked. These books are edited by Dean Alfar, Mike Simbulan, Elbert Or, and Super! 22 under 22 avant-guardian Andrew Drilon. We'll see you there!

Mujeres, My Christmas Wish List @ ñ, Dec. 14

It's only mid-December and we're almost "bazaar-ed" out already? If you haven't heard, boutique parties are here to change your shopping habits. Sip white Sangria with your tapas as you browse through the bags and glamour wares of Tamila Tapales, Nicolette Bell's Label, Denise Dizon and Monique Santos' Matisse at ñ [Rockwell Lifestyle Center, 898-2472], on this last installment of the weekly series.

iDJ Search Party Series: House Night @ Mati, Dec. 16

Following the rad discopunk fest at the Manila DJ Club last Thursday, it's the turn of popular Greek resto-bar Mati [G/F Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati, 898-2505] to play host to "House Night" of the iDJ Search party series on Friday. Witness a talented crew of amateur house DJs slug it out to win the nifty prize at stake: the iTunes-capable I-ROKR phone. That, and it's open bar till 11 p.m.! (Speaking of Mati, Gene Psinakis' steady chill spot at the Rockwell strip turns four next week, with an anniversary bash on Dec. 14 led by the groovy Calypso DJs.)

Bargrooves feat. DJ Ben Sowton, Dec. 16 & 17

Bargrooves is back! Resident DJ Ben Sowton of London flies into town on Friday for two back-to-back nights of the most achingly sophisticated deep house music from across the globe. Superfly's Karl Ty and NBK's young house hero, Paolo Maralit will join him at the decks of the Embassy Super Club [The Fort, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, 816-4195]. The Bargrooves entourage then flies to Cebu on Saturday for another installment at Club Vudu [Crossroads Mall, Cebu City]. E-mail superflymanila@yahoo.com.

Maksim: Live in Manila! @ PICC, Dec. 16

First came MiG (Ayesa), then came Michael (Bolton), and now Maksim (umm ... anyone?). The steady influx of foreign artists over the past few weeks is turning December into quite a concert-filled month, and without any sign of slowing down! (Paul van Dyk and the Backstreet Boys arrive in January.) But for now, you have the rare pleasure to catch Maksim live as he rocks the night away at the PICC on Friday. Call 891-9999 or 911-5555.

Mishka Adams: God Bless the Child Concert @ Music Museum, Dec. 17

Jazz singer Mishka Adams will temporarily say goodbye to Manila for the next two years. She's off to London where she will record and promote her second album and pursue further studies in jazz. But before she leaves, she intends to give Manila the gift of yet another beautiful night of music with a farewell concert at the Music Museum. Make sure you don't miss it. For tickets, call the Music Museum at 721-6726, Station One at 910-9102 and Ticket World at 891-9999.

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Dec. 10, Saturday

Hard Underground Trance with DJ John Kelly at Embassy Super Club; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; Kevin Ruiz at Government; Rewind at Phi Bar; 2nd Philippine Art Galleries Forum at Metropolitan Museum of Manila

Dec. 11, Sunday

Whispering Hope benefit concert at Philamlife Theater; Paskuhan: Filipino Heritage Food Festival at Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental; Sugar-free Desserts & Ice Cream at Peninsula Manila Lobby

Dec. 12, Monday

I Don't Like Mondays! with DJ Ro at Gweilos Makati; Eastwind Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Dec. 13, Tuesday

Pinoystories & Cosmic Love at Saguijo; Panic with DJ Alessandra Tinio at Zen; Tropical Depression at Phi Bar

Dec. 14, Wednesday

Mati 4th Anniversary Party at Mati; Vixen Wednesdays with Karl Ty & Cao Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; Johnyverse & Mars Miranda at Embassy Club

Dec. 15, Thursday

Supahstar DJ Thursdaze at Bed; Live Rock with Menaya at Absinth; Johnny Alegre Affinity at Wasabi; Nyoy Volante at Suburbia; Freeverse & Freestyle at Virgin Café

Dec. 16, Friday

Bargrooves feat. DJ Ben Sowton at Embassy Club; Bacharach Dreams at Premiere THX Cinema; NBK's HouSessions with Manolet Dario at Mezze; CouchLab DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Patch at Absinth; Bam del Valle at Government

Schedules may change without prior notice. For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart. Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.

ROCKWELL POWER PLANT MALL SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MARKET MARKET NE PACIFIC MALL PAVILIO
M MALLS ROBINSONS MALLS AYALA MALLS ALI MALL MALL STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL THE P

SALE

MARITHÉ FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD

ROCKWELL POWER PLANT MALL SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MARKET MARKET NE PACIFIC MALL PAVILIO
M MALLS ROBINSONS MALLS AYALA MALLS ALI MALL MALL STA. LUCIA EAST GRAND MALL THE P

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pop culture . entertainment . recreation

YEEHAH!

iPod, you pod, Everybody pod

> **The glassy eyes, the somewhat goofy expression, the telltale white earbuds—I'm now the proud owner of a lean, mean, music machine**

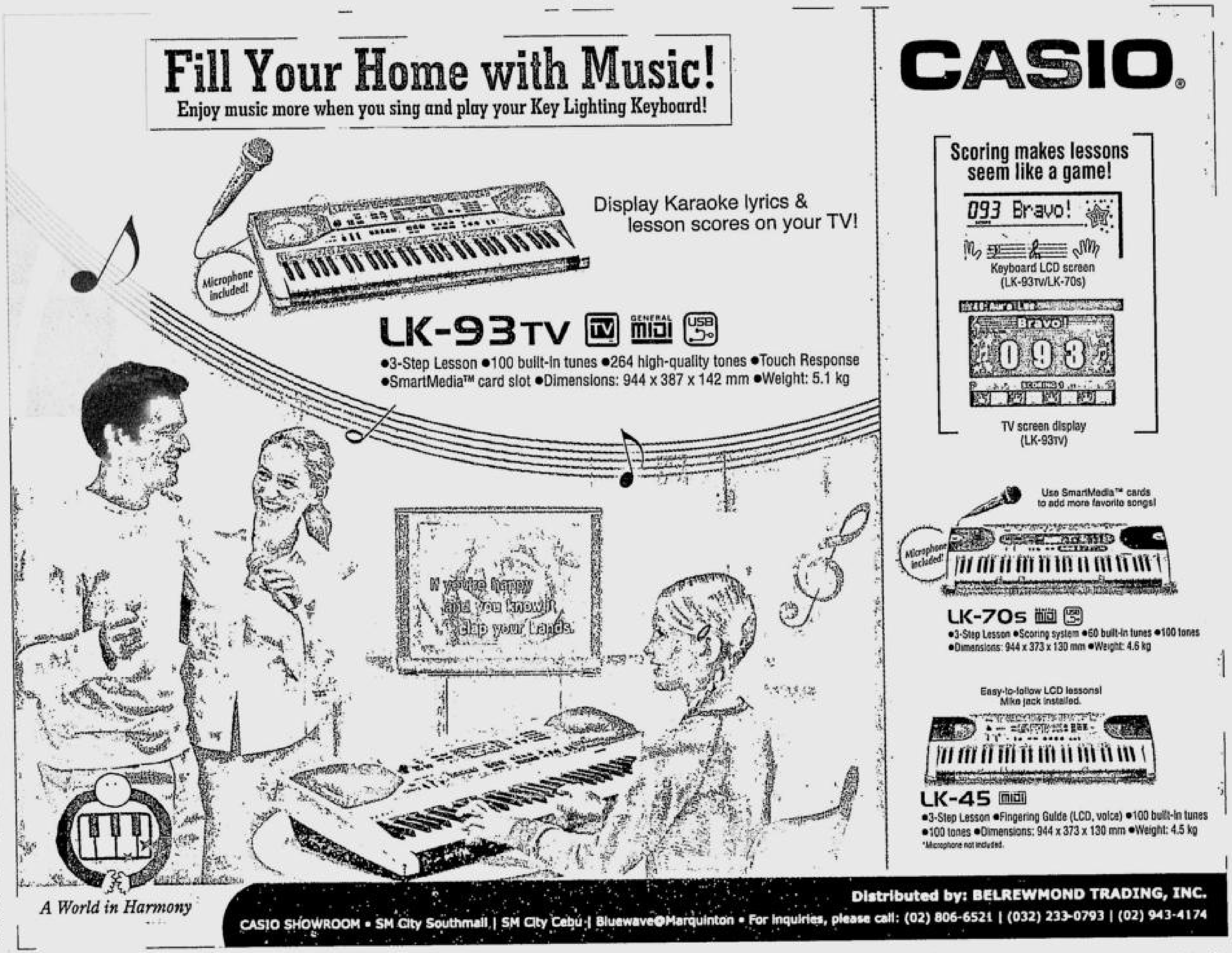
Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

I'M NOT INTO BANDWAGonesque behavior. Neither am I easily duped. But this time, I just couldn't help it. The glassy eyes, the blissful and somewhat goofy expression, the telltale white earbuds—they all point to one thing. I'm now the proud owner of a lean, mean, music machine, the iPod nano. Please feel free to call me a zombie. What? I can't hear you.

Given my luck with digital doodads, I couldn't help but feel burned. Like most of you, I started out with a DiscMan. I was 13 and I took

IPOD/ E2



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Microphone included!

LK-93TV
●3-Step Lesson ●100 built-in tunes ●264 high-quality tones ●Touch Response ●SmartMedia™ card slot ●Dimensions: 944 x 387 x 142 mm ●Weight: 5.1 kg

Scoring makes lessons seem like a game!
Keyboard LCD screen (LK-93TV/LK-70s)
TV screen display (LK-93TV)

Use SmartMedia™ cards to add more favorite songs!
Microphone included!
LK-70s
●3-Step Lesson ●Scoring system ●60 built-in tunes ●100 tones ●Dimensions: 944 x 373 x 130 mm ●Weight: 4.6 kg

Easy-to-follow LCD lessons! Mike jack installed.
LK-45
●3-Step Lesson ●Fingering Guide (LCD, voice) ●100 built-in tunes ●100 tones ●Dimensions: 944 x 373 x 130 mm ●Weight: 4.5 kg
*Microphone not included.

A World in Harmony

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093 Bravo!
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iPod, you pod, Everybody pod

Now Playing
9 of 12
The Journey
Fatboy Slim
Palookaville
3:37
-0:59

MAG ATTACK! I got this awesome nano tattoo skin from welovemacs.com

From page E1

it everywhere I went—my school's courtyard for lunch, cram sessions at a pal's house, carpool rides to and from wherever. But after dropping it one too many times, I traded it up for a MiniDisc player/recorder a few years later. That honeymoon didn't last very long, however, since some creep copped my then-magical mechanism while I was trekking around the Egyptian-Israeli border. And to prove that somehow, I am really the Bermuda Triangle of gadgets, how's this: I've dropped a PalmPilot in a pool, lost a digital camera during a yoga session and misplaced several cell phones, all in rapid succession.

But back to portable music players. The week before winter break '02-'03, I was speeding down the halls of my university in Canada when this thing called an iPod blindsided me. Since I've learned never to trust any first-generation invention, I had to turn away and leave iPod-less, even if doing so meant breaking the brick known as my heart. Some sympathy, please.

Anti-advertising technology

Then one day this year, I decided that the hype had blue-balled me enough. I also accepted that, with the way things were going, Steve Jobs wasn't gonna give me one for free. (Darn.) So marching out of the Best Buy in Pasadena with an extra-fly nano in my hand, I did it. I finally became part of the Pod squad, one with the universe. Which, of course, meant checking out of it.

In an LA Times article, trend expert Irma Zandl, of the New York-based Zandl Group, said we've cultivated a curatorial mindset. We create, sample, edit and customize our lives to suit our needs. Blogs, TiVo and yup, the gleaming iPod are just some of the tools we use to decode and organize the cultural hieroglyphics around us. In this age of disposable information, it's better to act as a filter and not a sponge. In fact, Zandl, together with nextperts Faith Popcorn, Jane Buckingham, Sharon Lee and DeeDee Gordon, have come up with a catch-all term to describe this development: curation nation. Yessir, it's profound.

The Pocket DJ
Ultragrrrl's guide to building the best music library
By Sarah Lewitinn

SERIOUS ABOUT SOUND? Grab The Pocket DJ at Fully Booked, P478

iLove it

Considering I've only had my iPod for a couple of months, it's amazing how I can't imagine myself without it. But being a huge music fiend, it all makes sense. I've totally given up on FM radio, since I can afford not to be bothered by cheesy ads, brainless DJ banter, and annoyingly repetitive playlists. I can also tune out the gnarly grunts at the gym and human static at any homogenous mall-sprawl. Okay, I may have become a spaz but I am now a spaz who's learned to skim the fat off both his mp3 library and, uhm, life.

I never thought having one would hit me this way but, like, I was wrong. Not only do I spend a hideous (okay, dorky) amount of time hooked up to my nano, I also clock in a bunch of man hours updating my iTunes, keeping it fun and filler-free. New Fall Out Boy next to even newer Fiona Apple? Country boy Keith Urban next to cool chick Kelis? No problemo. Some of my recently picked-and-mixed playlists include "I Wanna Be Kanye West" (my favorites from "The College Dropout" and "Late Registration"), "Cali Caliente" (West Coast joints and Southern-fried rap), "Crooklyn" (sounds from a crazy night driving around Brooklyn), and "Feels Like Teen Spirit" (emo jams from Halloween '05—long story). Creating ready-to-burn 80-minute soundtracks out of my 6,013-and-counting song collection has become an almost-daily ritual, not to mention an outlet for self-expression and editorial discipline. Other peeps find the cure for cancer in their downtime. Me? Well, I space out to the soothing sound of my digital music library. So there.

With the ferocity of a swarm of tech-talking locusts, I have ordered iStuff from welovemacs.com, like clickwheel stickers, nano jackets and more. And I don't know about the bulkier models, but I wear my nano around my neck like a prized accessory. Or an anytime, anywhere ear vibrator. That I rub on my nipples when it gets hot. Oh. Forget I said that.

The Podster backlash

But it's sorta mostly true that with all the lovers come the haters. Not a few cyberbullies have chewed on the iPod's ass, citing other mp3 players with better price points and bigger storage capacities. Podster devotion has also been ridiculed, with some critics calling the white cord subculture a sign that society has become even more fragmented.

In the September/October issue of Radar Magazine, writer Daniel Radosh questions the iPod hype. "But the more revealing phenomenon is how much effort has gone into convincing us of the iPod's social importance. What tells you more about upper-middle-class America: that it likes to have lots of songs on a small device, or that it thinks the fact that it has lots of songs on a small device is worthy of a Newsweek cover story?" Ooh, that reads like a burn.

Well, screw that

It's deceptively simple to slam the Pod phenomenon. As with all broad societal movements, resistance is to be expected, especially when a glut of publicity is involved. Those who diss the iPod are most likely from companies that do not have a strong community with their clients and have not managed to stay on trend, unlike Apple. Or, they could just be peeps who have nothing else to do.

Hype or no hype, I'd like to sum up my sentiments on this issue by saying, "Well, screw that." I only gave in—and became an iGuy—because I really couldn't find any other mp3 player that looked as slick and was as easy to use as my nano. I can say the same about the countless other kids (and adults) who've joined the club/marketing niche. I bet that if you create any gadget that allows freedom, control, and a certain degree of self-indulgence, it would generate the same kind of devotion, too.

Steve Jobs' iPod has gone from fad to phenomenon because it has made the lives of teens, twentysomethings and anyone with magpie mp3 tastes wildly better. Learning from the Google school of success, once you get used to better, you stay with it. Obviously you're free to disagree with me on this but I must warn you again: I'll be wired to my nano so, like, I won't be able to hear you.

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YEEHAH!

iPod, you pod, Everybody pod

The glassy eyes, the somewhat goofy expression, the telltale white earbuds—I'm now the proud owner of a lean, mean, music machine

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

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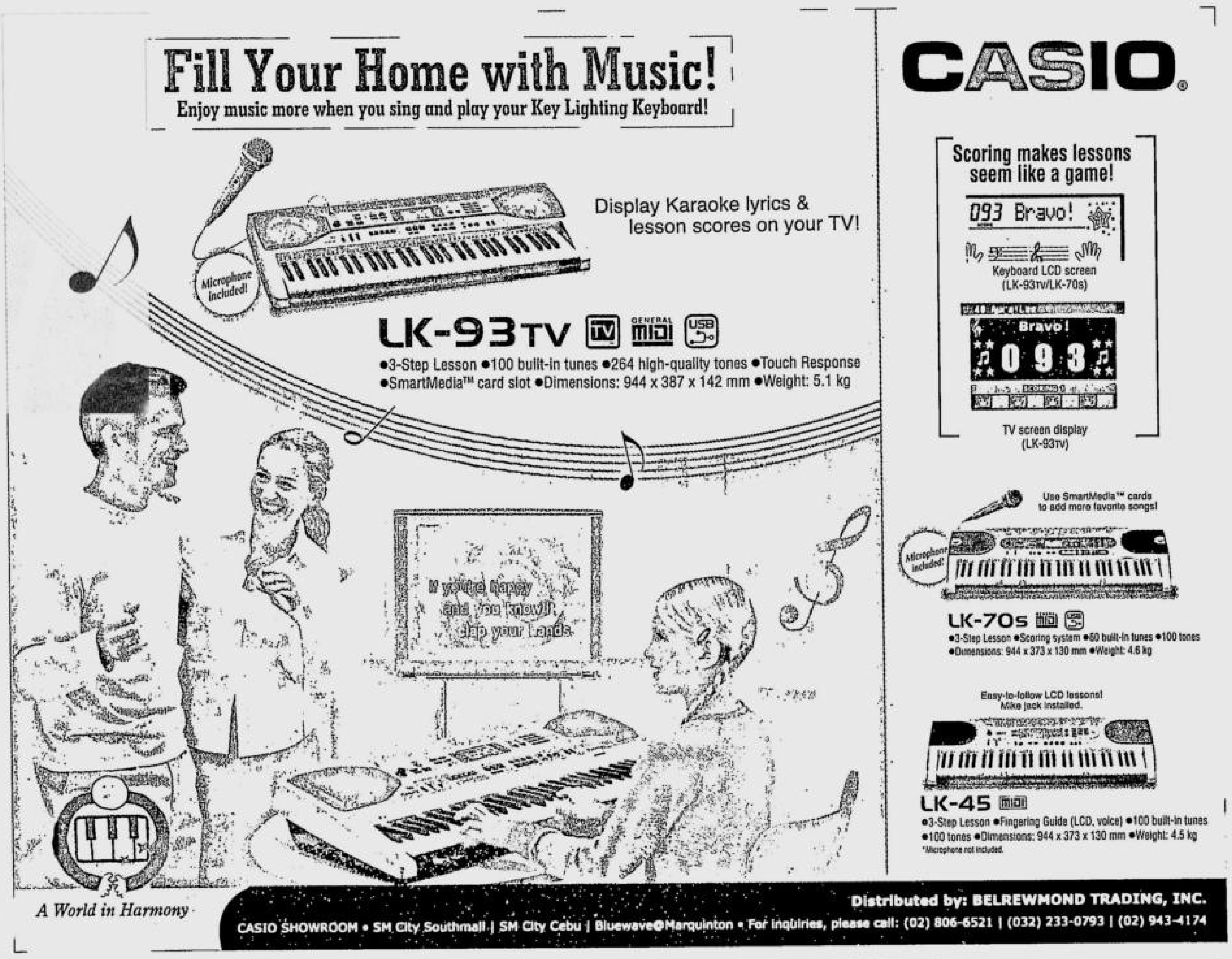
IPOD/ E2



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Scoring makes lessons seem like a game!
093 Bravo!
Keyboard LCD screen (LK-93TV/LK-70s)
Bravo! 093
TV screen display (LK-93TV)

Use SmartMedia™ cards to add more favorite songs!
Microphone included!
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●3-Step Lesson ●Scoring system ●60 built-in tunes ●100 tones ●Dimensions: 944 x 373 x 130 mm ●Weight: 4.6 kg

Easy-to-follow LCD lessons! Mike jack installed.
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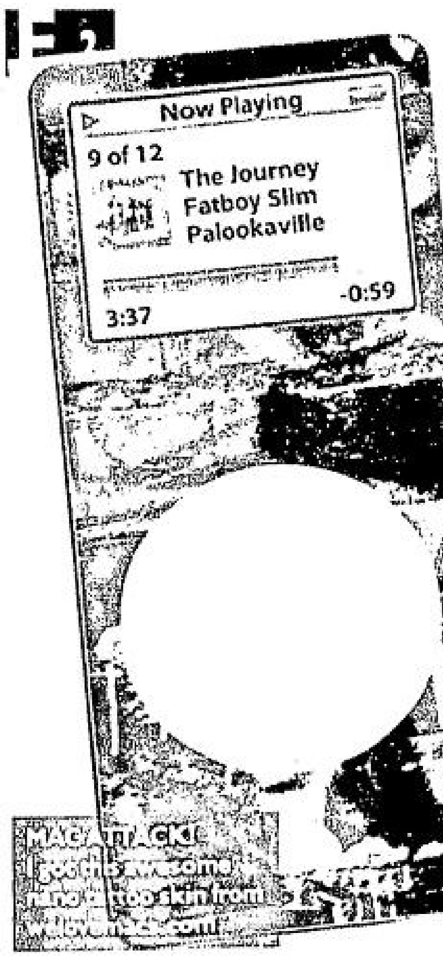
SIP

BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS



MAC ATTACK! I got this awesome nano [illegible] skin from [illegible].com

iPod, you pod, Everybody pod

From page E1

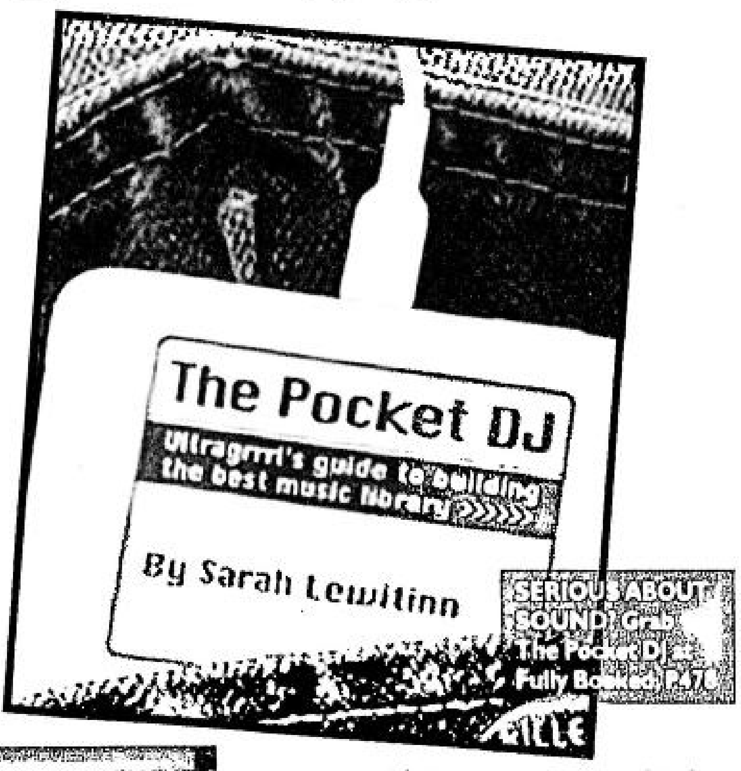
it everywhere I went—my school's courtyard for lunch, cram sessions at a pal's house, carpool rides to and from wherever. But after dropping it one too many times, I traded it up for a MiniDisc player/recorder a few years later. That honeymoon didn't last very long, however, since some creep copped my then-magical mechanism while I was trekking around the Egyptian-Israeli border. And to prove that somehow, I am really the Bermuda Triangle of gadgets, how's this: I've dropped a PalmPilot in a pool, lost a digital camera during a yoga session and misplaced several cell phones, all in rapid succession.

But back to portable music players. The week before winter break '02-'03, I was speeding down the halls of my university in Canada when this thing called an iPod blindsided me. Since I've learned never to trust any first-generation invention, I had to turn away and leave iPod-less, even if doing so meant breaking the brick known as my heart. Some sympathy, please.

Anti-advertising technology

Then one day this year, I decided that the hype had blue-balled me enough. I also accepted that, with the way things were going, Steve Jobs wasn't gonna give me one for free. (Darn.) So marching out of the Best Buy in Pasadena with an extra-fly nano in my hand, I did it. I finally became part of the Pod squad, one with the universe. Which, of course, meant checking out of it.

In an LA Times article, trend expert Irma Zandl, of the New York-based Zandl Group, said we've cultivated a curatorial mindset. We create, sample, edit and customize our lives to suit our needs. Blogs, TiVo and yup, the gleaming iPod are just some of the tools we use to decode and organize the cultural hieroglyphics around us. In this age of disposable information, it's better to act as a filter and not a sponge. In fact, Zandl, together with nextperts Faith Popcorn, Jane Buckingham, Sharon Lee and DeeDee Gordon, have come up with a catch-all term to describe this development: curation nation. Yessir, it's profound.



SERIOUS ABOUT SOUND? Grab The Pocket DJ at Fully Booked, P47

iLove it

Considering I've only had my iPod for a couple of months, it's amazing how I can't imagine myself without it. But being a huge music fiend, it all makes sense. I've totally given up on FM radio, since I can afford not to be bothered by cheesy ads, brainless DJ banter, and annoyingly repetitive playlists. I can also tune out the gnarly grunts at the gym and human static at any homogenous mall-sprawl. Okay, I may have become a spaz but I am now a spaz who's learned to skim the fat off both his mp3 library and, uhm, life.

I never thought having one would hit me this way but, like, I was wrong. Not only do I spend a hideous (okay, dorky) amount of time hooked up to my nano, I also clock in a bunch of man hours updating my iTunes, keeping it fun and filler-free. New Fall Out Boy next to even newer Fiona Apple? Country boy Keith Urban next to cool chick Kelis? No problemo. Some of my recently picked-and-mixed playlists include "I Wanna Be Kanye West" (my favorites from "The College Dropout" and "Late Registration"), "Cali Caliente" (West Coast joints and Southern-fried rap), "Crooklyn" (sounds from a crazy night driving around Brooklyn), and "Feels Like Teen Spirit" (emo jams from Halloween '05—long story). Creating ready-to-burn 80-minute soundtracks out of my 6,013-and-counting song collection has become an almost-daily ritual, not to mention an outlet for self-expression and editorial discipline. Other peeps find the cure for cancer in their downtime. Me? Well, I space out to the soothing sound of my digital music library. So there.

With the ferocity of a swarm of tech-talking locusts, I have ordered iStuff from welovemacs.com, like clickwheel stickers, nano jackets and more. And I don't know about the bulkier models, but I wear my nano around my neck like a prized accessory. Or an anytime, anywhere ear vibrator. That I rub on my nipples when it gets hot. Oh. Forget I said that.

The Podster backlash

But it's sorta mostly true that with all the lovers come the haters. Not a few cyberbullies have chewed on the iPod's ass, citing other mp3 players with better price points and bigger storage capacities. Podster devotion has also been ridiculed, with some critics calling the white cord subculture a sign that society has become even more fragmented.

In the September/October issue of Radar Magazine, writer Daniel Radosh questions the iPod hype. "But the more revealing phenomenon is how much effort has gone into convincing us of the iPod's social importance. What tells you more about upper-middle-class America: that it likes to have lots of songs on a small device, or that it thinks the fact that it has lots of songs on a small device is worthy of a Newsweek cover story?" Ooh, that reads like a burn.

Well, screw that

It's deceptively simple to slam the Pod phenomenon. As with all broad societal movements, resistance is to be expected, especially when a glut of publicity is involved. Those who diss the iPod are most likely from companies that do not have a strong community with their clients and have not managed to stay on trend, unlike Apple. Or, they could just be peeps who have nothing else to do.

Hype or no hype, I'd like to sum up my sentiments on this issue by saying, "Well, screw that." I only gave in—and became an iGuy—because I really couldn't find any other mp3 player that looked as slick and was as easy to use as my nano. I can say the same about the countless other kids (and adults) who've joined the club/marketing niche. I bet that if you create any gadget that allows freedom, control, and a certain degree of self-indulgence, it would generate the same kind of devotion, too.

Steve Jobs' iPod has gone from fad to phenomenon because it has made the lives of teens, twentysomethings and anyone with magpie mp3 tastes wildly better. Learning from the Google school of success, once you get used to better, you stay with it. Obviously you're free to disagree with me on this but I must warn you again: I'll be wired to my nano so, like, I won't be able to hear you.

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Because kids' taste changes as they grow old, give them the new **Swift SAM**, the hotdog packed with a delicious mix of juicy meat and savory spices that they'll surely crave for each time! Spice up their growing lifestyle with **Swift SAM**, the next big sensation for teens and grown-ups.

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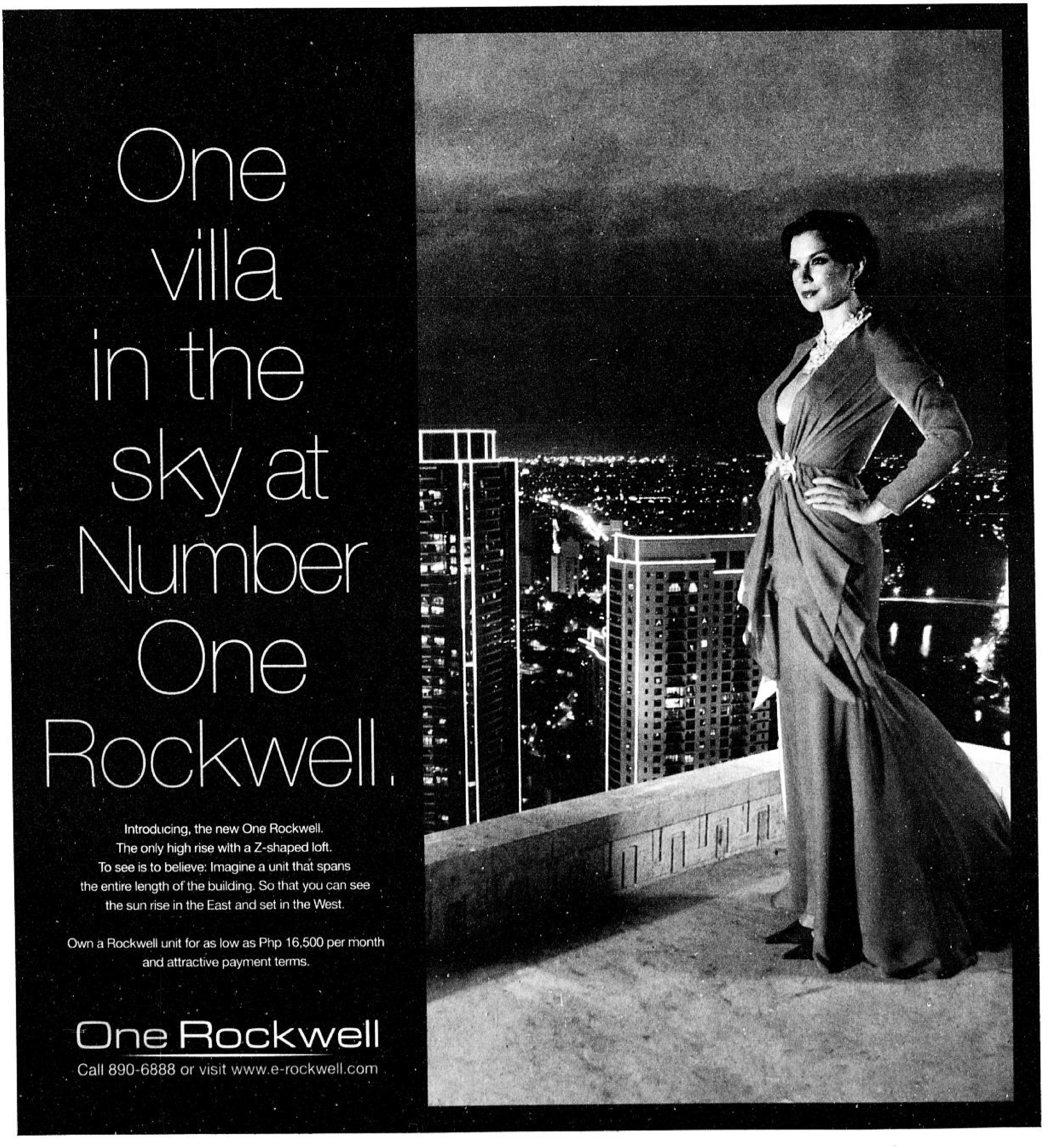
Shiny, happy people

By Tim Yap

STYLE DENIZENS HAVE BEEN on a frenzy these days. And we're not even talking shopping here. The daily grind of holiday event hoping makes even opening an envelope all of a sudden a big event this side of town. Then again, given an excuse to dress up and the lure of booze and more makes any partiphiliac up for the challenge.

Metrowear '05 once again waved its fairy godmother hand and sprinkled pixie dust on 25 chosen few designers to present their capsule collections to a style hungry audience. Looking around from the front row to the bleacher area, the guest list ranged the A to Z of fashion society decked at their Rockwell best.

The L'Oreal team was busy backstage as Lancome make up artist Abby Arenas was busy beautifying her supermodel colleagues. Post party praises went to the designers who gave their 100 percent, beads and all, to make this most awaited fashion event a Metro-rrific success.



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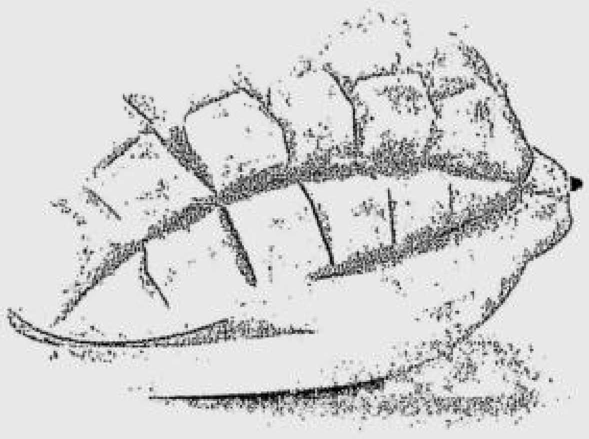
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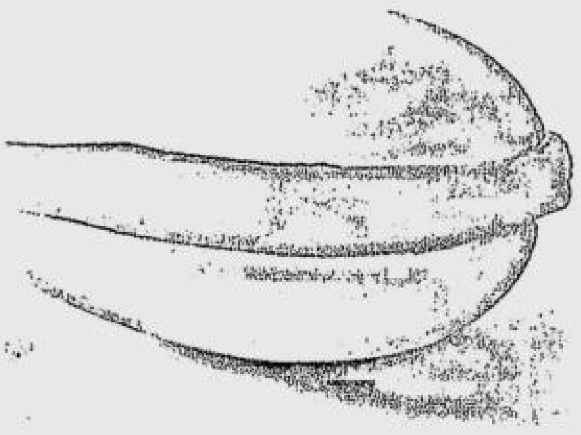
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Anchor Butter.
It's the secret of the Season's finest.
Because this Christmas,
only the creamiest and the tastiest will do.
There's just no substitute for it.

Food for the Gods

INGREDIENTS :

3/4	cup	**ANCHOR BUTTER**, melted	1	cup	all-purpose flour
1	cup	dark brown sugar	1	tsp	baking powder
1/2	cup	dark corn syrup	1/4	tsp	fine salt
1/2	tsp	vanilla	1	cup	walnuts, coarsely chopped
2	pcs	egg, slightly beaten	1	cup	pitted dates, chopped

PROCEDURE:

Preheat oven at 325°F. Grease and line an 11 x 7 x 1 1/2 rectangular pan.
In a bowl, combine melted **ANCHOR BUTTER**, brown sugar, corn syrup, vanilla and egg. Mix well.
In a separate bowl, sift together flour, baking soda and salt. Toss in walnuts and dates until well-coated.
Fold into butter mixture. Pour mixture onto prepared pan. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes or until done.

Makes 2 dozen.

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Cindy City

By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno

WHEN WE WERE LITTLE KIDS, AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK WE'D drop by the fast food joint Cindy's and gorge on their delicious spaghetti, fried chicken and French fries. These days however, like everyone else, we're craving for more of Cindy—not the resto but the MTV VJ slash actress who's wow-ing us all.

When you meet *the* Cindy Kurleto, you stumble for words to say, and you end up blurting something like, "Hi Cindy, g'day mate!" Cindy gives you a very strange look, then you realize it's because she's Austrian, not Australian. Yay for citizenship confusion!

For lots of us, seeing Cindy takes words away from our mouths and all that. But she's actually the type of person who makes you want to say more—and makes it easier for you to do so. She's extremely pretty, and exceptionally goofy. Cindy's "wow" but not too much. She's just right. (Like baby bear's porridge!)

And you might say "just right" to describe Silverworks too.

Silverworks is Cindy's newest endorsement after hip brand Freeway. Conceived as an exploration of the past, present and future of beauty, Silverworks' spankin' new campaign is a nifty celebration of the transformative and creative possibilities of—what else but—silver.

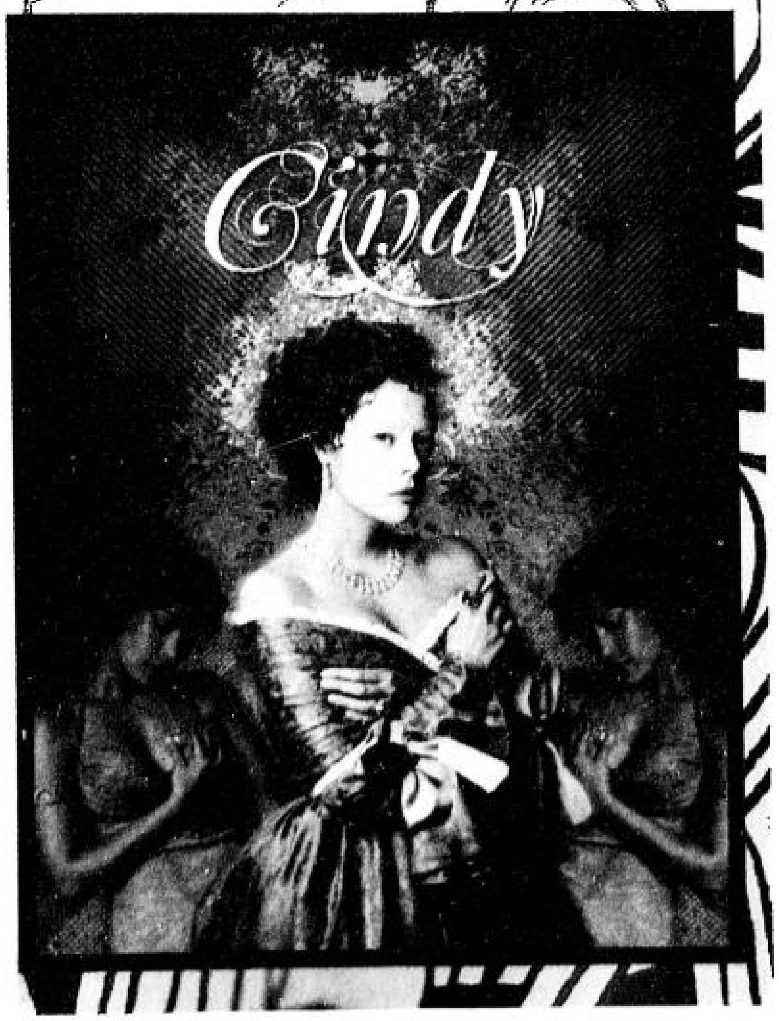
Through this striking ad concept, we see Cindy divergently made over to seize the attributes associated with ethereality—highly refined, delicate and spiritual.

When worn by Cindy, Silverworks' best-seller, the heart-shaped silver pendant, delivers an elaborate portrait of romance, hope, mysticism, and otherworldliness.

Silverworks' new visual treat was created by Neuron (a unit of Campaigns and Grey), headed by Boboy Consunji and Ompong Remigio. The creative team is composed of art director Bunny Vivero, account manager Polly Cortez, photographer Marc Nicdao, makeup artist Christine Duque and stylist James Reyes of the YDG.

We love Cindy's! Oops, we mean Cindy!

Photos by Mark Nicdao
Additional graphic art by Team Manila



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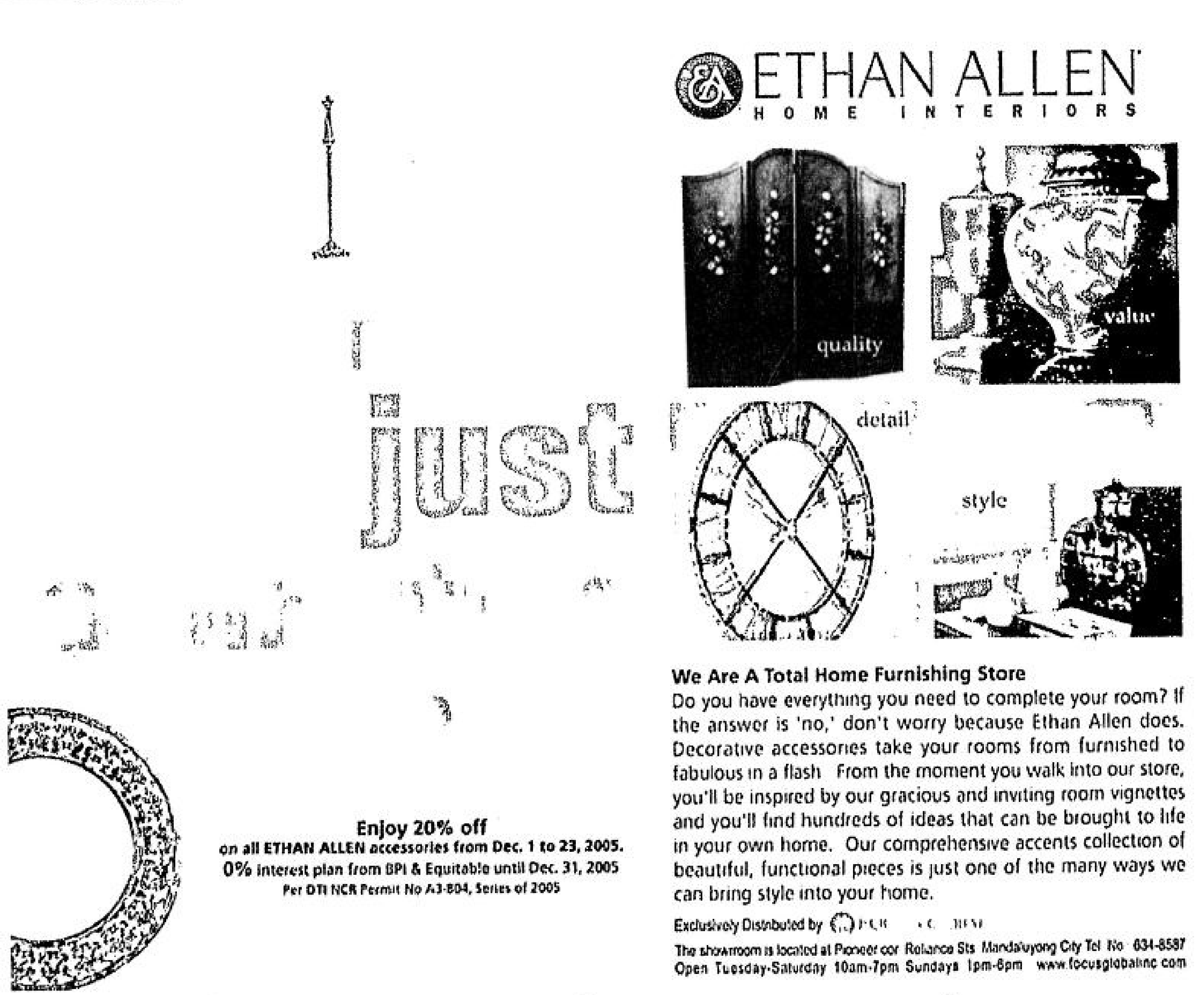
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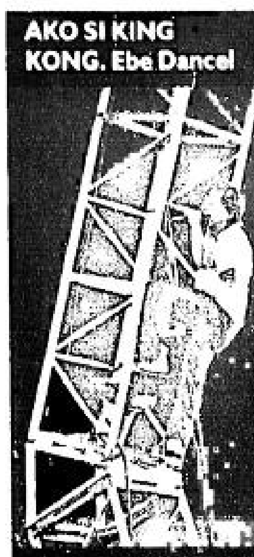
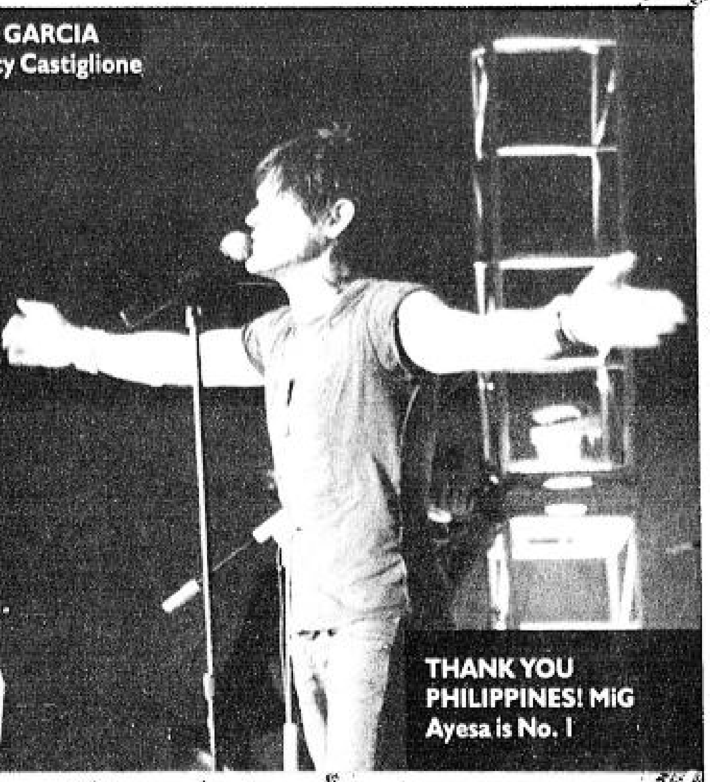

AKO SI KING KONG. Ebe Dancel

WILL you sign my mountains, Asia (Agcaoili)? With Avi Siwa in blue

GET OUTTA HERE. Buwi of Parokya

CHESKA GARCIA and Nancy Castiglione


THANK YOU PHILIPPINES! MiG Ayesa is No. 1

SUCKA PUNCH! Bamboo (the person)

TIM AND CELINE-Y SANDWICH. With Trish of NU107 and Ella V.

THE 2005 NU107 ROCK AWARDS

Ferocious, fun, fashiown!!!

By Isabelle Ramos

PHOEMELA BARRANDA. I'm the weener!!!

QUANTUM PHYSICS. Atom and Quark Henares with Kat Alano.

THE WORLD TRADE CENTER was packed with thousands of people, with antiriot police, and soldiers were onstage ... another political rally? Thankfully no; it was simply part of the mind-blowing opening number orchestrated by Bamboo who launched into their anthem "Hallelujah" at the outrageously successful 2005 NU107 Rock Awards. What an opener it was indeed, and only a taste of what was to come.

The NU107 Rock Awards is the "you have to be there" event for Pinoy rockers; the simple yet imposing stage design alone was an indication of how big yet streamlined the annual event has become. Sixteen awards were given out plus a dozen-and-a-half energetic live performances, and of course celebrity presenters who gave their share of glitz and some naughtiness to the proceedings.

The 2005 RA was hosted by theater actor and The Dawn vocalist Jett Pangan, and the curvy, witty Asia Agcaoili, with the occasional participation of Myx VJ/actress Karel Marquez.

Most of the bands that performed had their own little schtick during their numbers; to put it simply, there was an air of friendly competition among the performers. Sugarfree's Ebe Dancel put a dramatic twist to "Hari Ng Sablay," sitting on a monobloc chair and reading off a piece of paper, while ex-Barbie's Cradle member Kakoi Legaspi did the guitar parts for him. Ebe eventually climbed up a scaffolding, a move borrowed from Bono's mid-eighties antics but did underscore the song's self-deprecating lyrics.

ANG SARAP SARAP! Karel Marquez

WAW. Wawi Navarroza

Cat and mouse

The Radioactive Sago Project did a hilarious medley of the Song of The Year nominees, no small task as there were TWELVE songs they had to cram in roughly eight minutes. They ended with Lourd De Veyra reciting in a deadpan monotone, *"Umuwi ka na baby, umuwi ka na baby ..."* (a line from Orange and Lemons' "Hanggang Kailan") over and over while the rest of the band took their time and left the stage one by one.

Guitarists Diego Castillo and Mong Alcaraz of Sandwich played cat-and-mouse onstage, liberated by their new wireless systems. Cebu's true musical pride Urbandub was not nominated this year but they performed their new single "Alert The Armory" to enthusiastic reception. Their provincemate, the equally lauded Jr. Kilat, "shot" the audience with imaginary bullets from his walking stick, playing musical onomatopoeia as his ensemble played "Ako Si M16" (it won "Song Of The Year").

The Dawn took the stage and performed a Radiohead-inspired drum intro to "Tulad Ng Dati." As the song's last notes reverberated in the warm sweat-filled air, Jett Pangan introduced the night's special guest: "... Filipino ito ... I-MiG Ayesa!" The Fil-Aussie Rockstar INXS finalist performed U2's "Pride" plus an original "High," backed by The Dawn. Dressed in tight pants that made girls (and maybe a few guys) swoon, he hit stratospheric notes and moved in true "rockstar" style, owning the crowd and the stage effortlessly.

Defining moments

As for the awards, Bamboo took Album Of The Year and Vocalist of The Year, of all the bands nominated, they were easily crowd favorites. Kamikazee won the Best Live Act trophy; celebrity presenters Tuesday Vargas and Gwen Garci turned NU107's musclebound Pontri into a human sandwich, much to the delight of the audience.

TOUCH MAH GUITAR! Diego Castillo

KITCHIE and Barbie standing on a stage ...

BAMBOO (the band)

LET the Joyce Jimenez rise!

COME INTO MY WORLD. Jenni Epperson

PAPA CHAMP Lui-Pio

It is these moments that define the irreverent nature of the Rock Awards: fun, funny, naughty. Cynthia Alexander won as Guitarist Of The Year, and Orange and Lemons won The Rising Sun Award. Triphop upstarts Up Dharma Down took home the Raw Award, which was handed over by last year's winners The Late Isabel.

Many of showbiz's most beautiful and sexy stars shone their own lights at the RA 2005 such as Kat Alano, Phoem Baranda, Bianca Gonzales, Katya Santos, Joyce Jimenez, Ella V., and Nancy Castiglione, all glowing and radiant, sometimes jiggly; the heat inside the WTC rose to near-fever pitch due in no small part to their appearances.

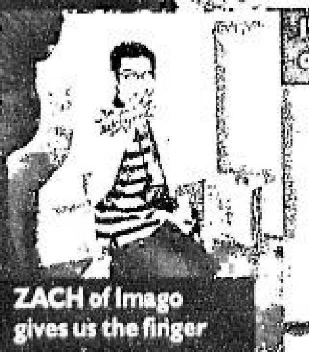
Year after year, the NU107 Rock Awards is called the biggest and loudest awards event in the country. The 2005 NU107 Rock Awards lived up to that claim, surpassing all the previous ones in substance, scope and glitter.

WHO'S YOUR PONTRI? Gwen Garci and Tuesday Vargas get rowdy with Pontri of NU107

HAVE a break, have a Kat Alano

THE DAWN. Jett Pangan and the guys belong on stage

I'M TOO SEXY FOR MY SANDWICH. Raimund Marasigan


ZACH of Imago gives us the finger

I'M JOHN Dinopol of Urbandub. Yay!

LOOK! UP IN THE SKY! Chito Miranda

THIS MIC TASTES GOOD. Yael Yuzon

LUPANG HINIRANG. Marc Abaya

QUARK LOOKS HAPPY. Is it because of Joyce or Diego?

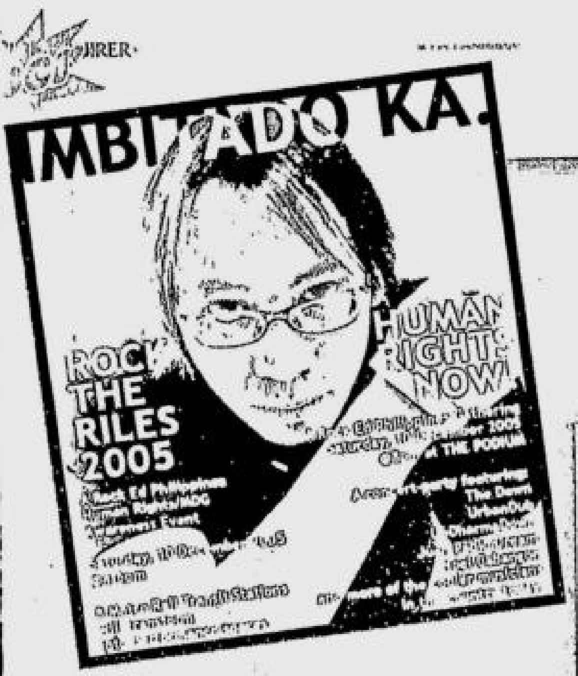
YOU GUYS ARE FRUITS! Orange and Lemons

I AIN'T NO HOLLABACK MAN. Raimund Marasigan of Pedicab (among other bands)

DANICA Sotto of Dyna Records Inc. with her two fans

YAEL of Spongecola accepts an award

A white band for our huge 'problemos'



By Pepe Diokno

IN OUR LITTLE COUNTRY WITH teeny-tiny centers, ideas that make you go, "F-ing wow!" don't come a lot. And it's sad, 'cause we're a little country with huge *problemos*, and innovative ideas are what will get us out of our rut.

Rock the Riles is an F-ing great idea. From 4-6 p.m. today(!), 8 MRT stations from North Edsa to Taft Avenue will be turned into performance spaces for poetry, storytelling, painting, and music. And at 8 p.m. at the Podium, there's a concert party with Noel Cabangon, Up Dharma Down, UrbanDub, Juan Pablo Dream, and The Dawn.

This whole thing's in celebration of Human Rights Day and the 3rd International White Band Day. The MRT Station themes are based on the 8 UN Millennium Development Goals: to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, achieve universal primary education, promote gender equality and empower women, reduce child mortality, ensure maternal health, combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensure environmental sustainability, and to develop a global partnership for development. (Whew!)

We're a third world country. And we need every one of the 8 UN Development Goals. The problem with us, though, is that for some strange reason, we're so detached from our reality. Extreme poverty, for example, is something we see right in front of us everyday. But we don't think about it more than Pinoy Big Brother. The reason why I say Rock the Riles is an F-ing good idea is because today it puts human rights at the top of our list.

Who would've thought that one day people'll ride the MRT for a cause? This is an opportunity super peeps will not miss.

Rock the Riles is a Rock Ed Philippines Human Rights/MDG awareness event. "No More Excuses: Philippines End Poverty Now."

Breakfast in Bed

Waking up in bed to the smell of coffee and toast right beside you is one of life's little pleasures. And it tastes even better when you don't have to hurry enjoying it.

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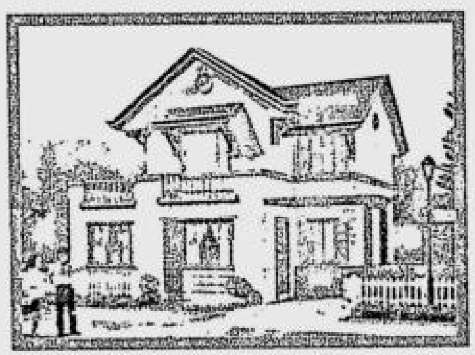
Country American Cherry
132 sqm. usable floor area

Classic poprock collections have never looked this good!

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Rock Of Ages

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Anthology

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Simplified:
Rehashed
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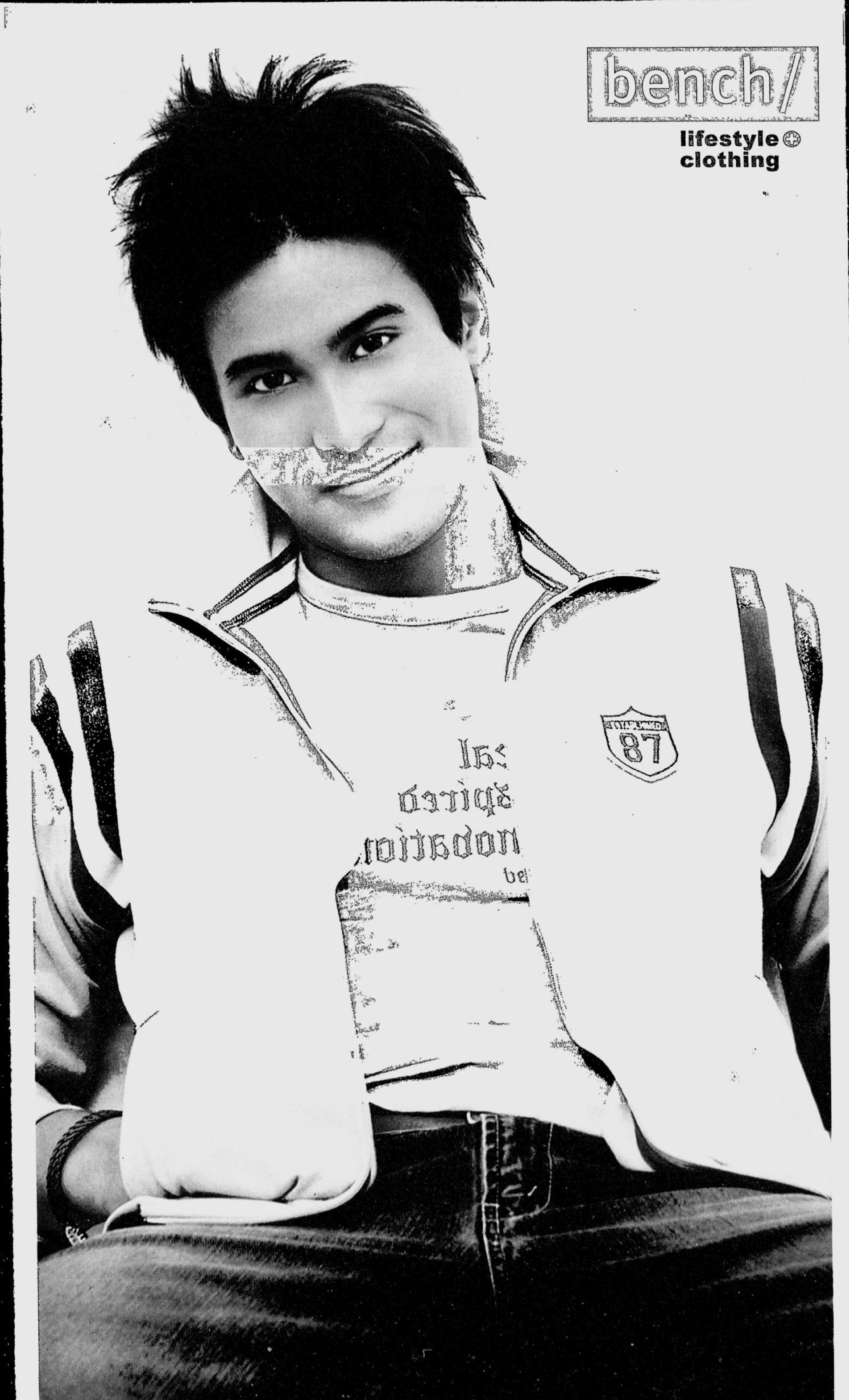
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All the cool gadgets in one store

Seeing red? Automatic Centre painted the town red with the opening of its new concept store at Glorietta Mall, Ayala Center, Makati City. The new Automatic Centre G4 does not only radiate a hip atmosphere but it also showcases the coolest consumer electronics to hit the market today.

GADGETS/ G2

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Research reveals Sharp produces most of the world's LCD TVs

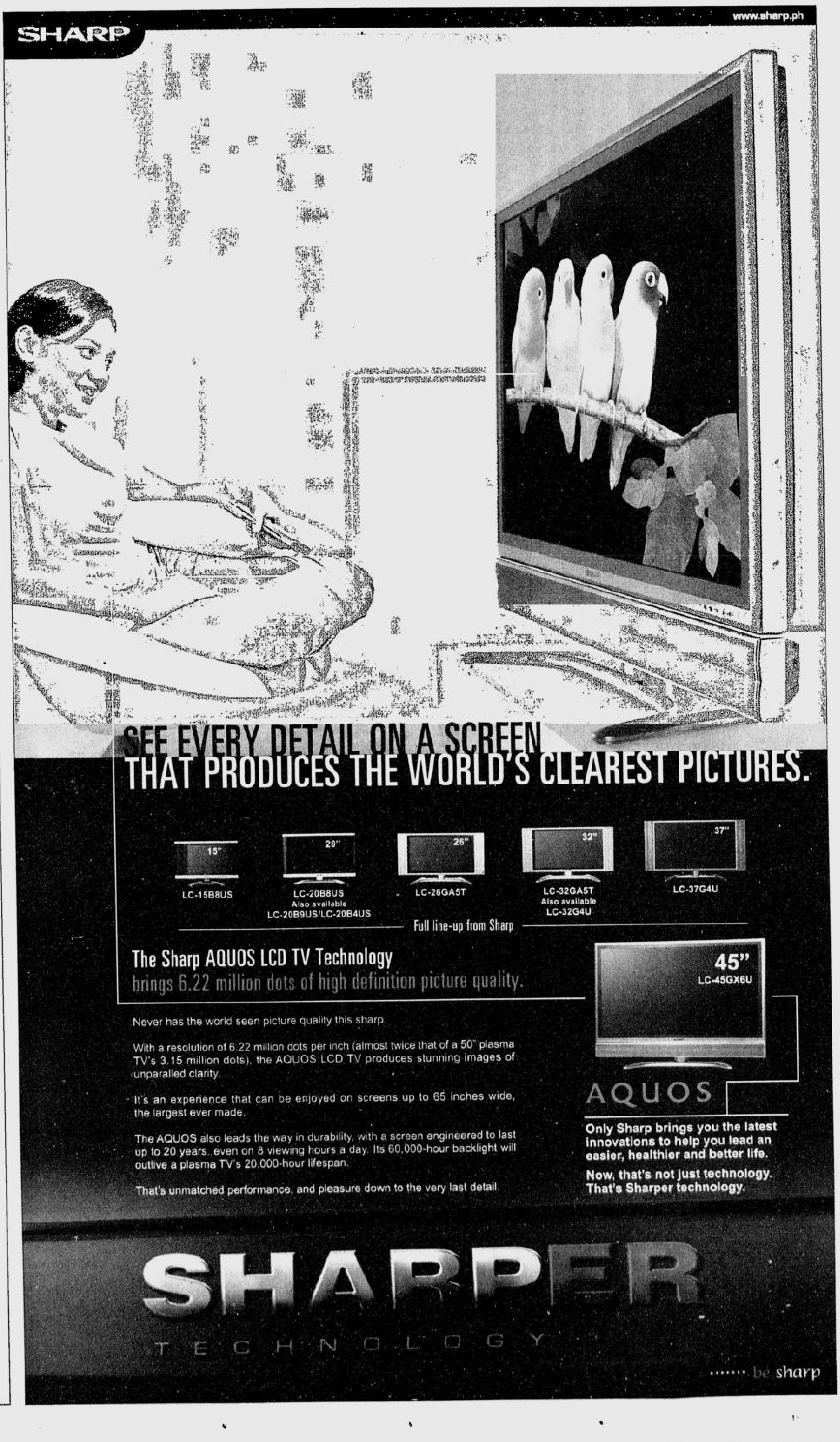
For two consecutive years now, Sharp has again topped the list of producers of LCD TVs in the world. DisplaySearch, a leading market research and consulting firm for the flat panel display (FPD) industry, announced the result of its recent study that shows Sharp leading all LCD TV manufacturers consistently from year 2004 until the first half of 2005.

A total of 40 LCD TV manufacturers from around the world were included in DisplaySearch's study for the worldwide shipment of LCD TV brands. The study shows a steady increase of unit shipment since last year, with the Sharp brand consistently leading all shippers. By the first half of this year, Sharp has recorded a market share of 19.43 percent.

Last year, Sharp also recorded more than 5 million units of its AQUOS LCD TV spread over its manufacturing bases and subsidiaries in Japan, Spain, Mexico, and China. This accounted for one-third of the world's flat-panel TVs out of the total worldwide demand of 14 million units from the year 2001 to 2004.

Sharp's leading LCD TV model in the Philippines is the AQUOS line, which began initial manufacturing in January 2001 in Japan. This specific model is capable of projecting high quality images for home entertainment because of its excellent resolution. It has received high ratings for its thinner profile, lighter weight, and smaller footprint. Sharp's AQUOS line has also gathered good reviews for its super energy efficiency, long service life, and excellent performance compared to CRT-based TVs.

> Sharp's leading LCD TV model in the Philippines is the AQUOS line, which began initial manufacturing in January 2001 in Japan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SHARPER TECHNOLOGY

.... be sharp

All the cool gadgets in one store

From page G1

G4 is the first and only concept appliance store in the country. Automatic Centre shies away from the traditional and introduces a brand-new look for this store.

Geoffrey Lim, general manager of Automatic Centre, said the company collaborated with premier design firm Sonia S. Olivares and Associates. "We want to make an appliance store more exciting," he said, "Make it a little more chic yet unintimidating."

But it's not all looks for G4. It has the widest range of flat-screen televisions and a diverse line of gadgets as compared to any other store. Feast your eyes with the latest Plasma TVs, LCD, TVs, CRT, DLP, LCDs, Projection TVs, digital cameras, video camcorders, DVD players, mp3 players, iPods, and mobile phones.

This shift from traditional to focusing on one category is Automatic Centre's way of bringing only the best for its consumers. G4 is the perfect venue for the change first because of its varied market segment, and second, because of the consumers' buying power in the area.

The products displayed on G4 are also the best-selling items before the shift. Seven years since it opened in the same location, Automatic Centre is just like any appliance store.

"We also worked closely with our suppliers to be able to deliver such a concept store," Lim said.

This move was also inspired by the success of Automatic Centre's road show exhibits in various malls in Metro Manila. Realizing that there is definitely a growing market for flat-screen TVs, the company wants to give its customers a venue, more time, and more brands to suit their needs.

G4 is so named not only because it is located in one of the premier shopping centers in the country, but it also indicates the advent of the fourth generation store of Automatic Centre. However, it was the third-generation entrepreneurs who conceptualized the change.

Appliance stores abound but Automatic Centre is one store that does not settle for mediocrity. Thus, it distinguishes itself from the traditional with: first, it's introduction of focusing on the hottest segment of consumer electronics today: flat screens and gadgets; second, making the look of the store appealing not only to families but to the younger market as well; and third, the way it trained its service personnel.

"They are not just sales people but also specialists," Lim said. "We try to deliver solutions to customers which allows us to forge friendship with our patrons. They have the knowledge of technology and products we sell, and know how to address the needs of customers."

During its opening on Nov. 9, representatives of suppliers from other countries were

GADGETS/ G3

Automatic CENTRE

PRESENT during the ribbon-cutting ceremony are (from left) TV personality and model Derek Ramsay, Ayala Land SVP and head of Commercial Group Miriam Katigbak, Panasonic Phils. president Rene Almeda, Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman, Automatic Centre chair Benito Lim, TV personality and model Amanda Griffin, Hitachi Electric Asia general manager Hinedon Zen, and Toshiba senior manager Enoch Hui.

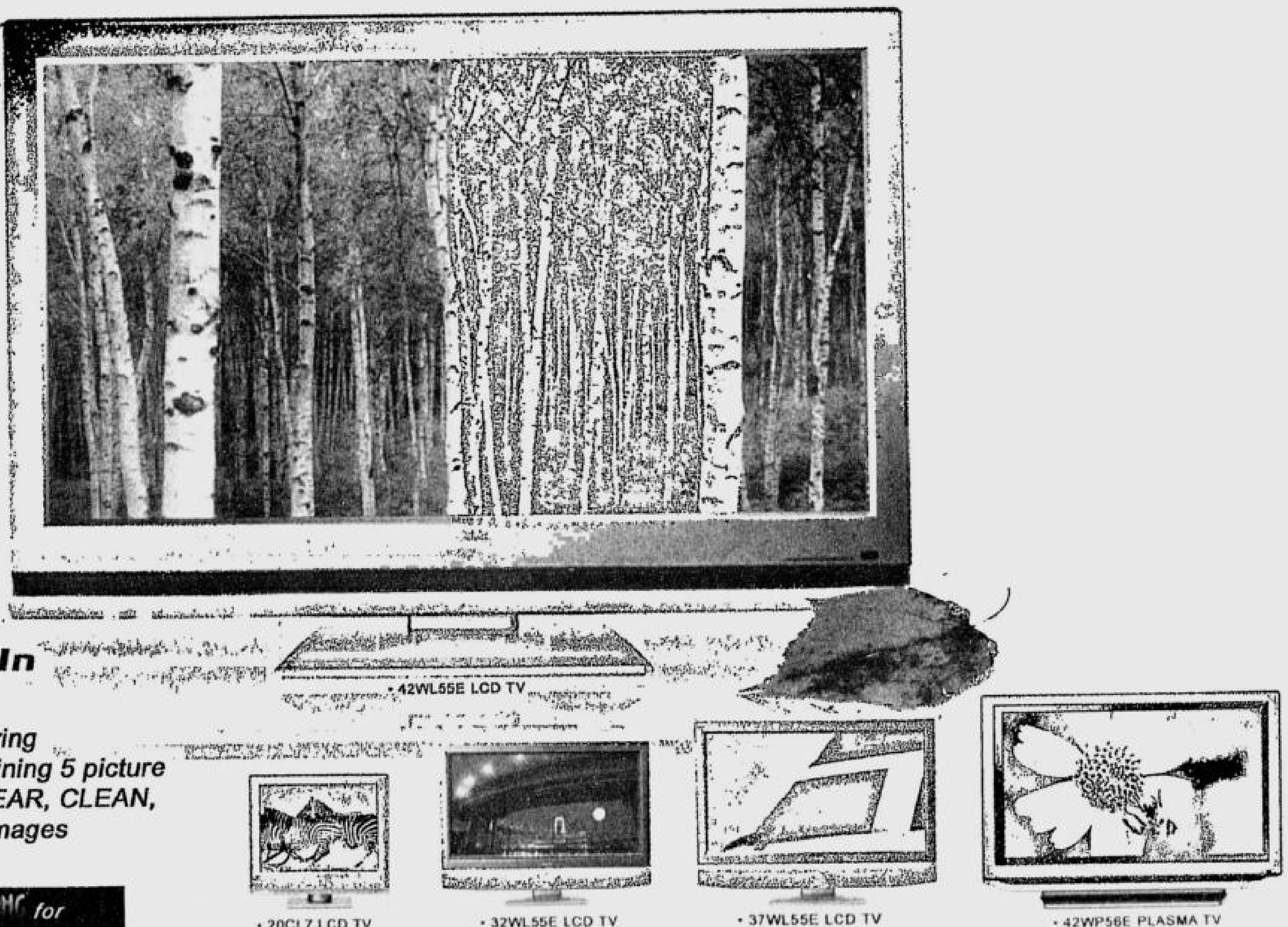
SPECIAL guests Mari Kaimo with wife Enchang and Automatic Centre president Samie Lim.

TOSHIBA Hong Kong Ltd. senior manager Enoch Hui with Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman

TOSHIBA

Truly Digital
Truly Intelligent

meta brain brings images to life



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VIDEO HOME APPLIANCES
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All the cool gadgets in one store

From page G2

impressed to see such a concept store in the country, according to Lim.

Automatic Centre has been servicing its consumers for six decades founded by Benito Lim. It started out as a specialist store in 1948 carrying only one brand. It then pioneered carrying a wide range of products and brands. Its commitment of bringing only the latest and the best to consumers runs to this with the materialization of Automatic Centre G4.

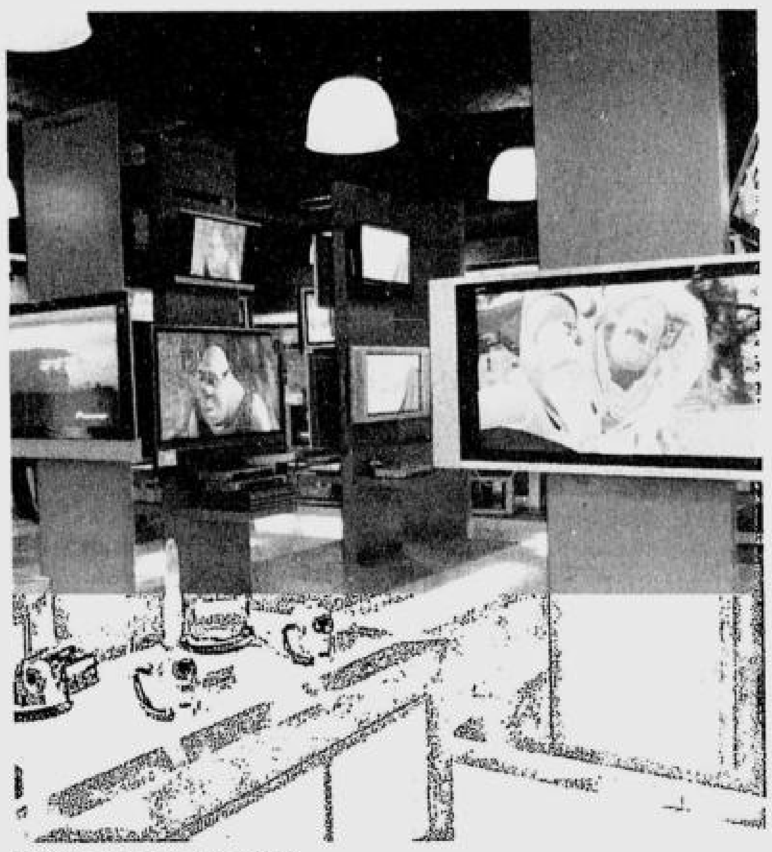
Automatic Centre G4 offers a complete line of flat-panel displays with over 60 plasma, LCD, and projection TVs. You can also find the best brands in digital camera and video camcorders. And the audiophiles can find a haven with latest line of mp3 players.

Choose from the wide range of premier brands which include AOC, Audiovox, Apple, Bell'O, Casio, Creative, Harman-Kardon, Hitachi, Hyundai, Infinity, JBL, JVC, Konica, LG, Nikon, Nokia, NextBase, Olympus, Panasonic, Pentax, Philips, Pioneer, Samsung, Sharp, Sony, Syntax, Toshiba, Viewsonic, and Vivitar. Major credit cards are accepted for up to 24 months.

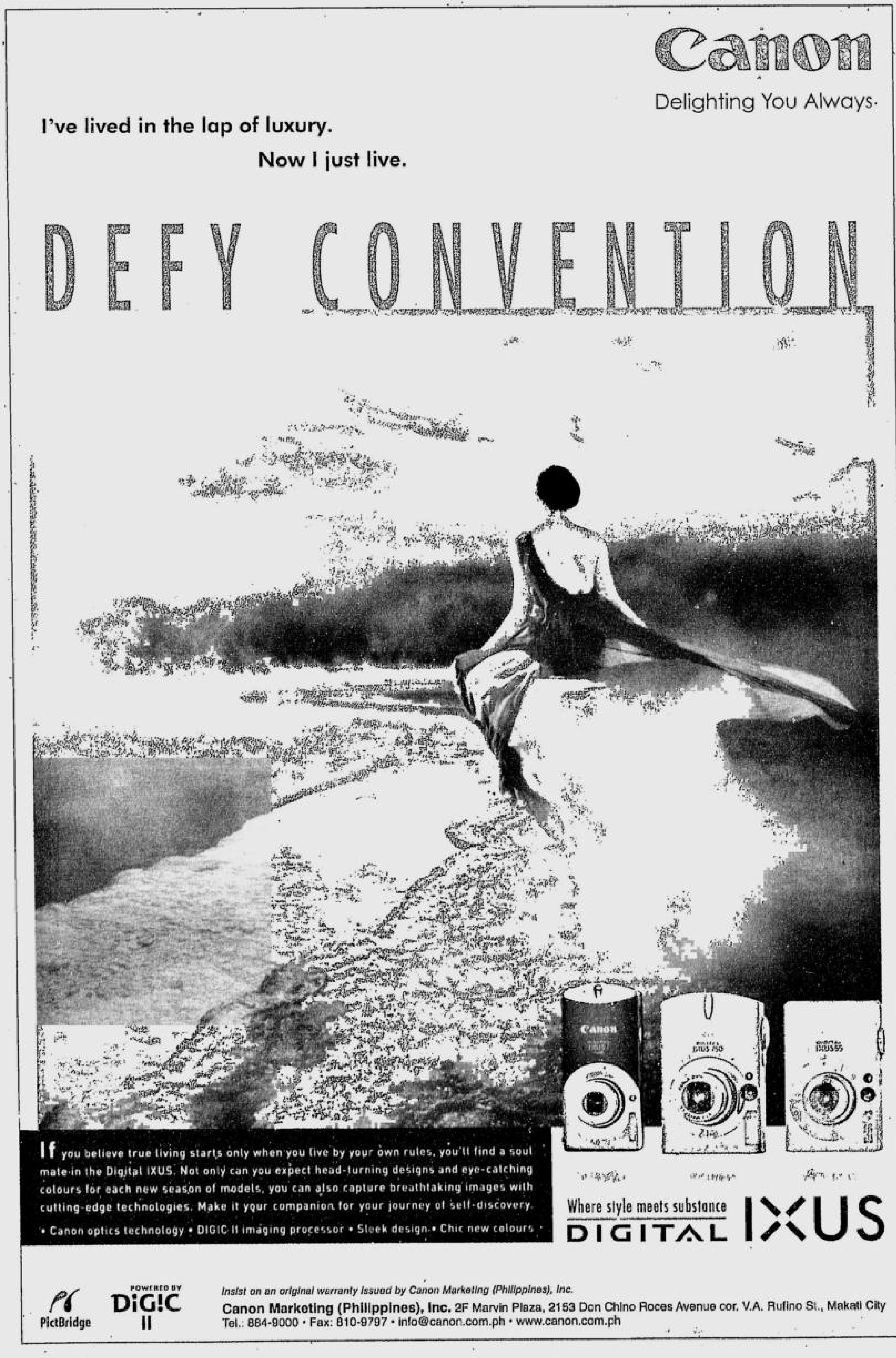
Check out the newly reopened Automatic Centre G4 at the 3rd level of Glorietta 4.

HEAR it with the wide selection of MP3 players and iPod at the back area of G4.

CAPTURE it with the latest digital and video cameras.



SEE it with flat-screen TVs.



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Where style meets substance
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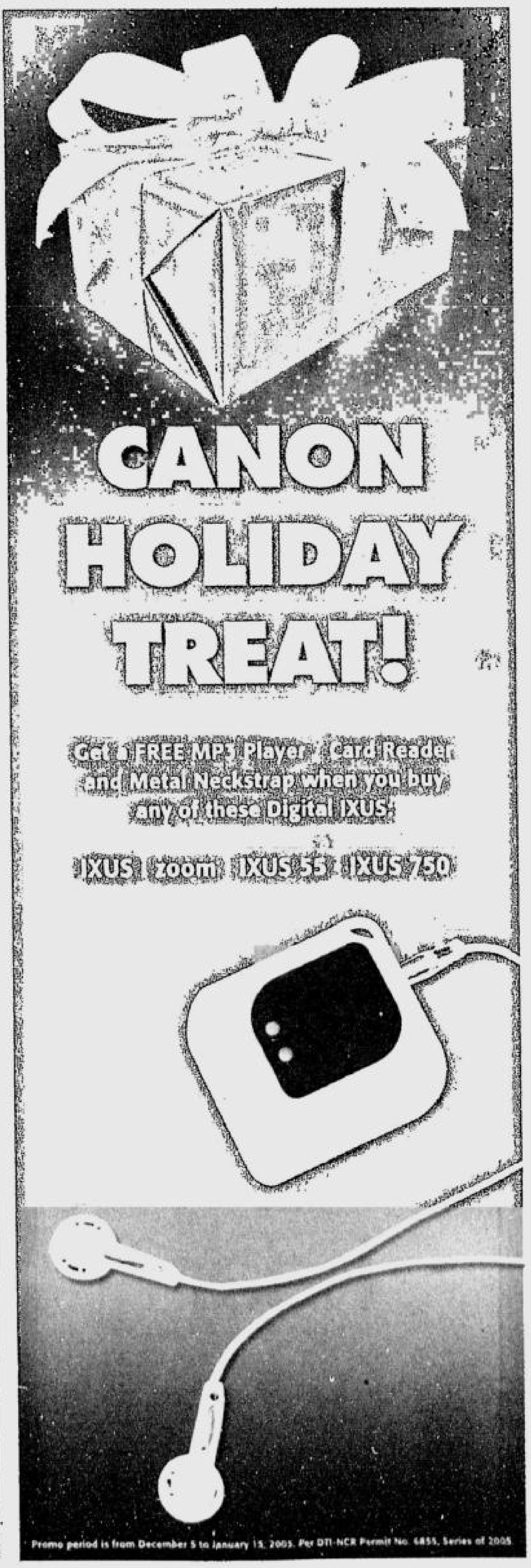


CANON HOLIDAY TREAT!

Get a FREE MP3 Player, Card Reader and Metal Neckstrap when you buy any of these Digital IXUS:

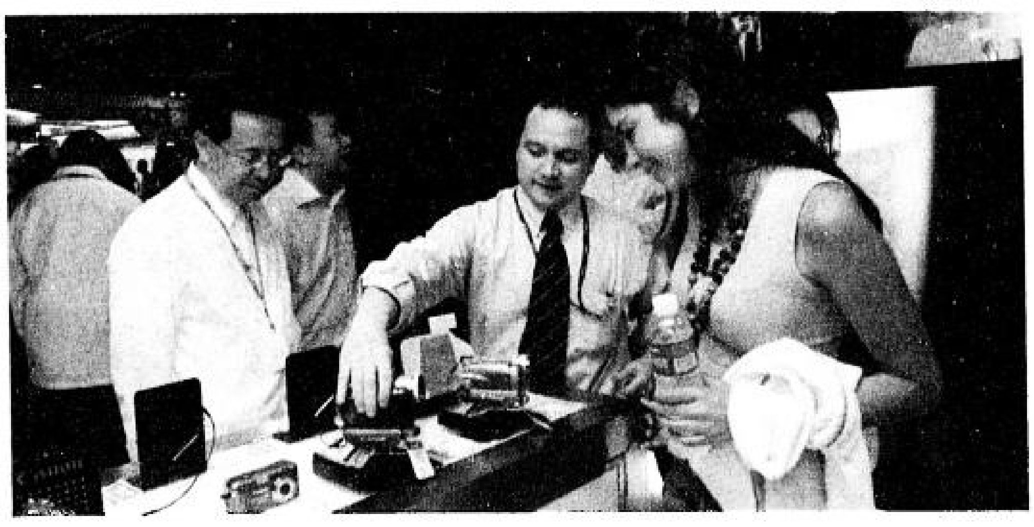
IXUS i zoom · IXUS 55 · IXUS 750

Promo period is from December 5 to January 15, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 6855, Series of 2005

Choose from the wide range of premium brands which include AOC, Audiovox, Apple, Bell'O, Casio, Creative, Harman-Kardon, Hitachi, Hyundai, Infinity, JBL, JVC, Konica, LG, Nikon, Nokia, NextBase, Olympus, Panasonic, Pentax, Philips, Pioneer, Samsung, Sharp, Sony, Syntax, Toshiba, Viewsonic, and Vivitar. Major credit cards are accepted for up to 24 months

SONIA and Hannah Olivares, Automatic Centre senior executive vice president Irene Lim Chua, chair Benito Lim, and general manager Geoffrey Lim.

CANON president Ramon Arteficio with Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman.


AMANDA Griffin is assisted by Canon Phils. sales and marketing manager Angelo Martinez and president Ramon Arteficio.

AUTOMATIC Centre G4 team (from left) Marc Maayo and Hannah Olivares of Sonia Olivares and Associates, Mia Chua, assistant vice president of Automatic Centre, and Geoffrey Lim, general manager of Automatic Centre.

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see it
plasma tv . projection tv . lcd . flat screen tv

Automatic CENTRE
catch it
videocams . digital cameras

Automatic CENTRE
hear
mp3 players . home theatre systems . cellphones

Automatic CENTRE

G4

NOW OPEN

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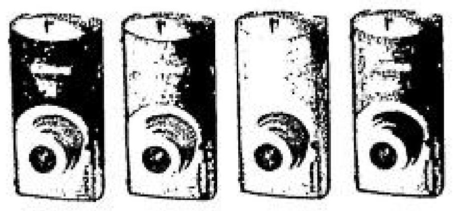
Take Your IXUS Pick

THE Christmas season is a mine of golden memories. As precious as gems uncovered from earth, these moments must be captured and preserved the IXUS way.

Canon Digital IXUS has recently launched three new stylish digital cameras that are perfect for taking vibrant snapshots this Christmas-the Digital IXUS i Zoom, IXUS 55, and the IXUS 750.

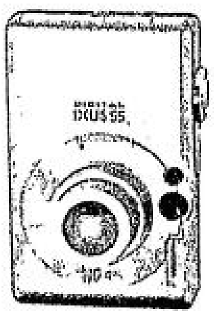
Digital IXUS I Zoom



For the fashion savvy who love it slim, compact, and colorful, the five megapixel IXUS i Zoom is the must-have digital camera. Available Cranberry Red, Ultra Violet, Sahara Brown, and Jet Black, the Canon Digital IXUS i Zoom complements any individual's unique personality and style.

Sleek enough to be tucked inside a clutch while shopping for gifts or even slipped in tight designer jeans while bar-hopping, the IXUS I Zoom is also packed with five megapixels, 2.4x optical zoom, and 7x combined digital zoom. No-fuss fashion, if you must.

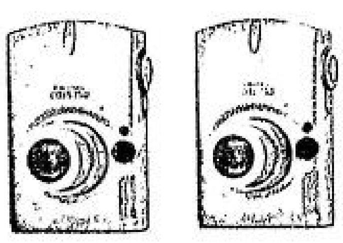
Digital IXUS 55



The IXUS 55 features a dazzling sunburst finish-a first for Canon digital cameras. It was designed with an ultra high refractive (UA) aspherical lens and uses an ultra-thin battery to keep the body sleek and slender.

With 5.0-megapixels, 3x optical zoom and 12x combined digital zoom, the IXUS 55 is ideal for capturing sharp images, from hilarious Christmas parlor games, fireworks display, to souvenir family shots during noche buena. Print these golden memories even up to A3 size and you'd still get clear and vibrant details.

Digital IXUS 750



Embracing the Perpetual Curve Design and imbued with an air of power and sophistication is the commanding IXUS 750. With seven megapixels, 3x optical zoom and 12x combined digital zoom, it is crafted for the successful professional seeking optimum performance in a compact package.

Available in Satin Beige and Silver Grey, the IXUS 750 also gives elegant color variations.

The IXUS 55 and 750 boast of a 2.5-inch color LCD monitor with wide viewing angle, making it easier for several people to enjoy viewing photographs together. The ultra-efficient backlight requires less energy while generating high brightness. When lighting conditions make viewing difficult, the Quick-Bright function increases brightness automatically. Pretty smart, isn't it?

Style and substance

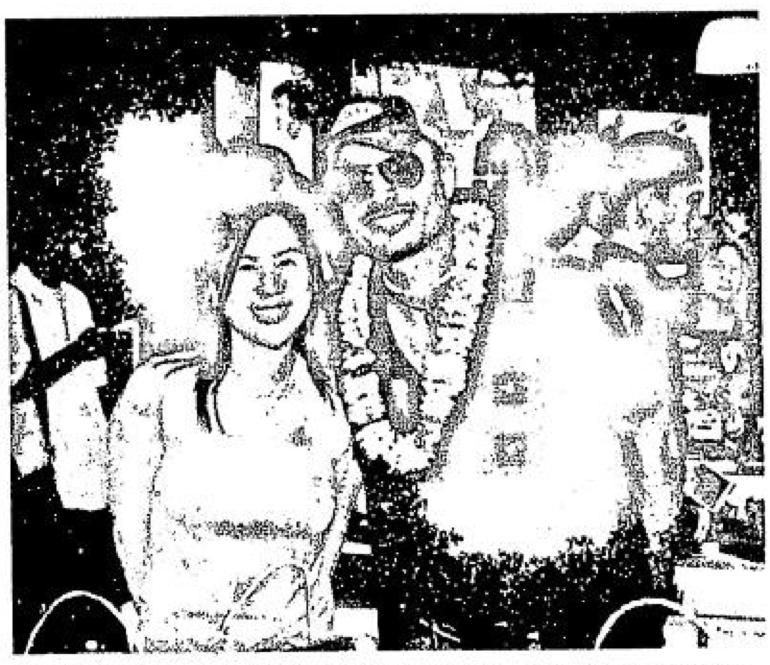
Canon's second generation DIGIC II imaging processor is integrated into all these Digital IXUS cameras. DIGIC II accelerates processing speeds, improves autofocus precision, and enhances color reproduction.

These IXUS cameras can also be connected to any Pictbrige-compatible printer for immediate printouts. Connect it to any Canon Selphy Photo Developer and develop the good times in just 58 seconds! Selphy photos are scratch-proof and water-proof-the perfect holiday tokens.

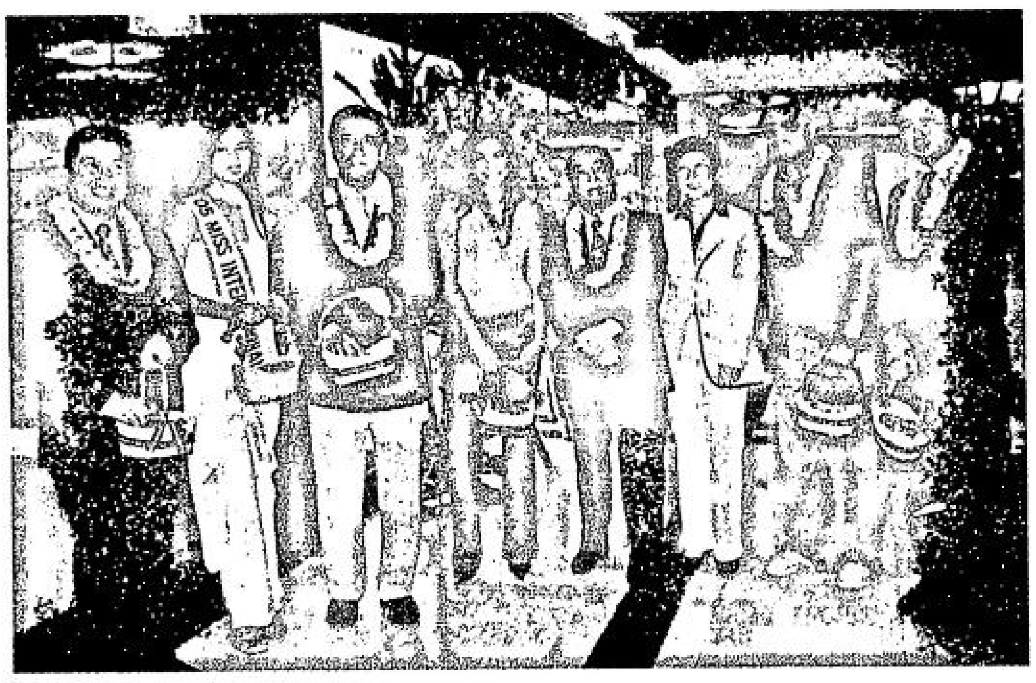
Canon's line of Digital IXUS cameras provides a host of choices to suit every personality and fashion style. Take your pick and make it a colorful IXUS Christmas to remember.

05 MISS INTERNATIONAL

LG Phils. marketing manager Roe Quiambao, Precious Quigaman, and VP for sales and marketing Sang Il Nam.



DEREK Ramsay with Automatic Centre assistant vice president Mia Lim Chua.



Automatic Centre has been servicing its consumers for six decades founded by Benito Lim. It started out as a specialist store in 1948 carrying only one brand. It then pioneered carrying a wide range of products and brands. Its commitment of bringing only the latest and the best to consumers runs to this with the materialization of Automatic Centre G4

Automatic CENTRE

IRENE Lim Chua and Sharp Phils. president Mitsonobu Hattori.

Automatic CENTRE

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1. For every purchase of any LG DVD players, Mini Components, or DVD Home Theaters from LG Dealer Nationwide, customer will get a coupon that will entitled for a FREE rental in any branches of Video City nationwide
2. The original receipt or sales invoice shall be attached to the coupon upon claiming of free rentals
3. Each customer will be allowed to 10 DVD or 20 VCD rentals from any Video City outlets
4. If customer is already a Video City member, he/she can then avail of the free rental
5. Free rentals can be availed of in staggard basis as long as it is within the redemption period
6. All unused free rentals will not be honored after the redemption period
7. The free rentals does not include membership fee. Thus, if customer is not a Video City member, he/she would have to enroll to membership and present the necessary requirements for membership
8. In cases of late returns, losses or damages, the necessary penalties would have to be shouldered by the customer
9. Promo Period is from October 10, 2005 to February 28, 2006
10. Redemption period is until April 28th, 2006 (60 days)
11. All VIVA Video City and LG Electronics as well as their agencies up to the second degree of affinity are disqualified from joining this promo

Promo runs from October 10, 2005 to February 28, 2006
PER DTI-NCR Permit No.5805 Series of 2005

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Sony introduces the Philippines to the 'HD World'

SONY HD WORLD IS MADE POSsible by Sony televisions with Wega Engine, Handycam, Cybershot, and other products equipped with HD technology.

Sony products have long been equipped with the advanced technology to enable them to produce HD-like images. Consumers may not be aware of it, but Sony has long been delivering HD technology to their doorstep.

Earlier models of Sony TVs equipped with the Wega Engine Technology have already set the environment for HD technology. Sony's unique Wega Engine technology has enhanced the viewing experience to deliver beautiful and true-to-life picture quality. This is engineered through intelligent picture enhancement system that integrates a host of unique technologies and circuitry, enabling full, precise digital image processing. Images appear stunningly realistic, with amazing detail and sharpness, reduced noise, enhanced clarity, and improved depth and contrast - for an almost HD quality image.

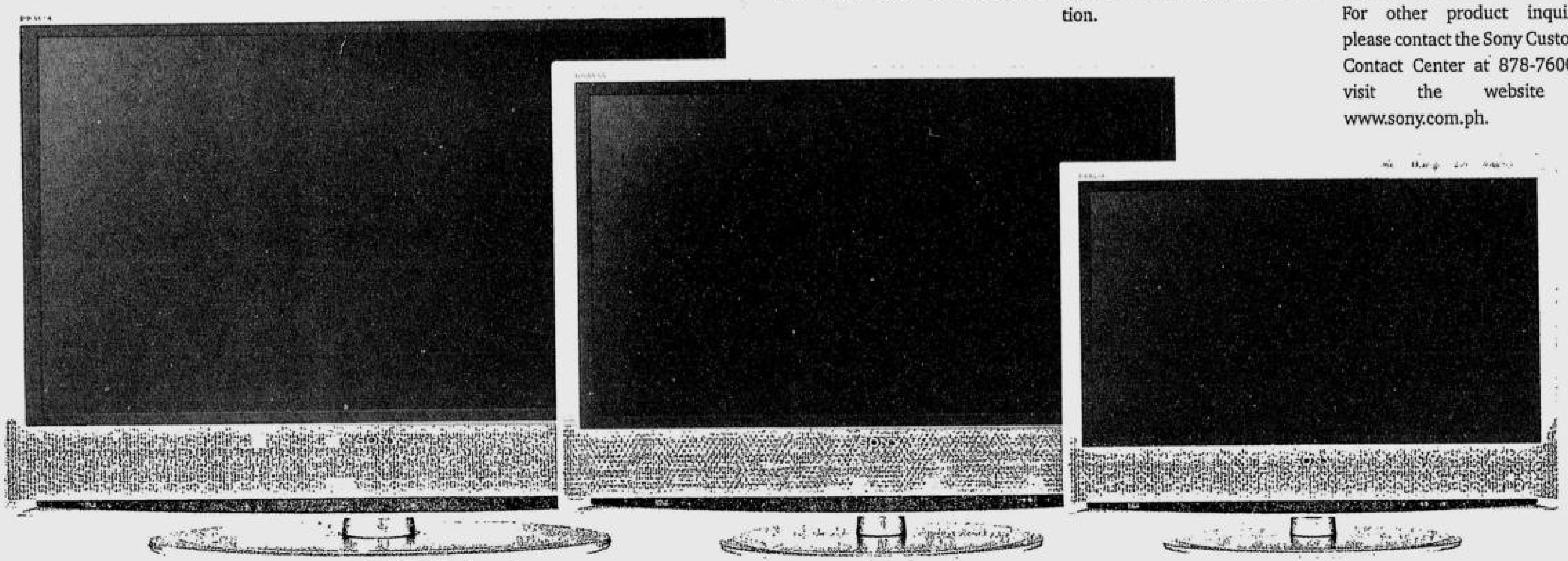
The Bravia LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) TV makes possible total HD quality images, promising a better appreciation of the HD World. Bravia LCD TVs are Sony's new line of flat panel LCD televisions which deliver high resolution images with outstanding picture quality, brighter colors, and sensational sound quality. Bravia, which stands for "Best Resolution Audio Visual Integrated Architecture" is the most comprehensive LCD television line up ever to be launched in Asia. The LCD TVs are expected to dominate the TV market because of their superior technology and picture quality specially designed for HD viewing. In fact for the first time in 50 years, the shipment of LCD TVs in Japan have exceeded that of CRTs.

The Bravia LCD TVs boast of Sony's proprietary technology, the Wide Color Gamut CCFL (Cold Cathode Fluorescent Lamp) backlight, which enables viewers to see deeper and richer greens and reds.

The Bravia LCD TVs include the V-series, S-series and B-series. These high performance models have panel sizes ranging from the compact-15 inch to a wide 40-inch to complement any room design and environment. Both the V-series and S-series offer digital high definition picture quality of up to 1366 X 768 pixels, which is equivalent to 1 megapixel resolution.

The Bravia also promises a wealth of connectivity options. Still images captured on Handycam or Cyber-shot and colorful artworks accomplished on a PC can best be appreciated when viewed using the Bravia LCD TV. With resolutions of more than one megapixel, what you get to see are HD-like still images.

The Sony Bravia LCD TVs, and other Sony HD products are available in authorized Sony dealers and at Sony Square in Park Square, Megamall and Gateway. For other product inquiries, please contact the Sony Customer Contact Center at 878-7600 or visit the website at www.sony.com.ph.



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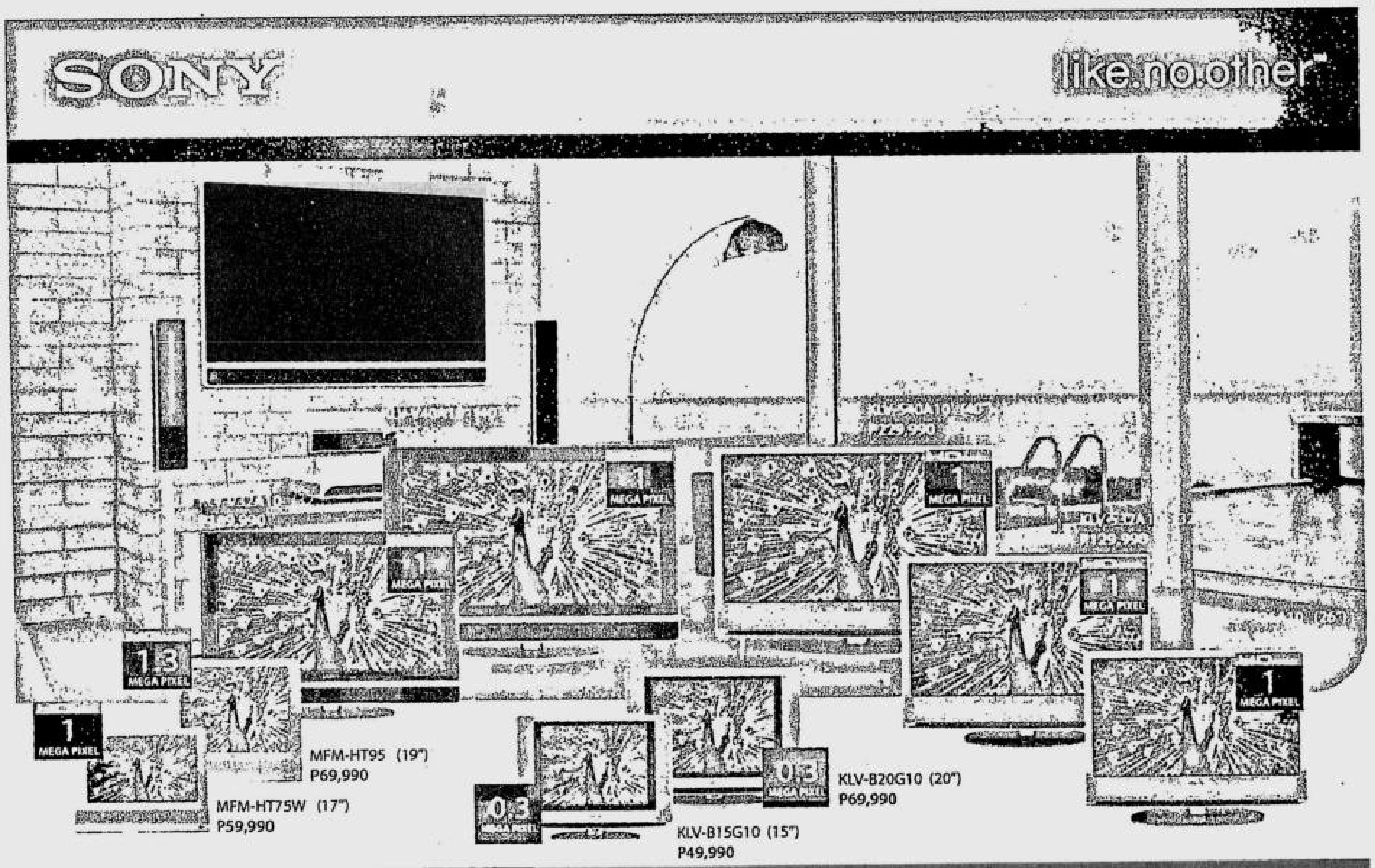

MFM-HT95 (19")
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MFM-HT75W (17")
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KLV-B20G10 (20")
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KLV-B15G10 (15")
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Best Resolution Audio Visual Integrated Architecture

Sony's BRAVIA LCD Television offers new level of entertainment you have yet to encounter anywhere else. It integrates exceptional technologies and sophisticated appeal to bring you an impactful visual experience unlike any other.

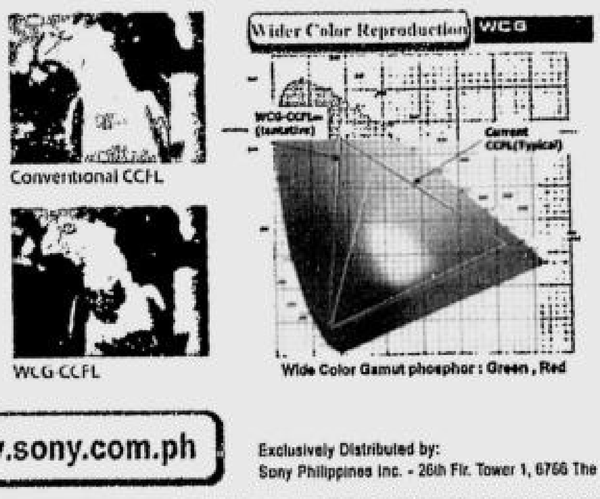
WEGA Engine

- Stunningly clear images with minimal noise.
- Amazing details and sharpness.
- Superb contrast between black and white images.

WEGA ENGINE

Wide Color Gamut - CCFL (for Bravia V Series)

- 30% increase in colour reproduction Vs. current CCFL used to conventional LCD TV.
- Precise color vibrancy and intensity.



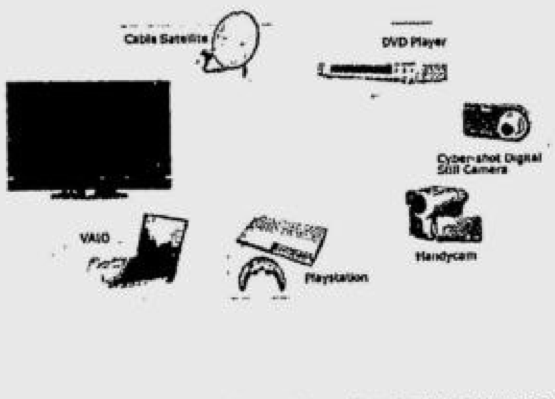
Conventional CCFL

WCG CCFL

Wide Color Gamut phosphor : Green , Red

Extended Connectivity

- Maximum versatility with wide input interface range.
- HDMI (High Definition Multimedia Interface)(for V Series)
- Video, PC (for V & S Series) and USB Interface (for V Series)



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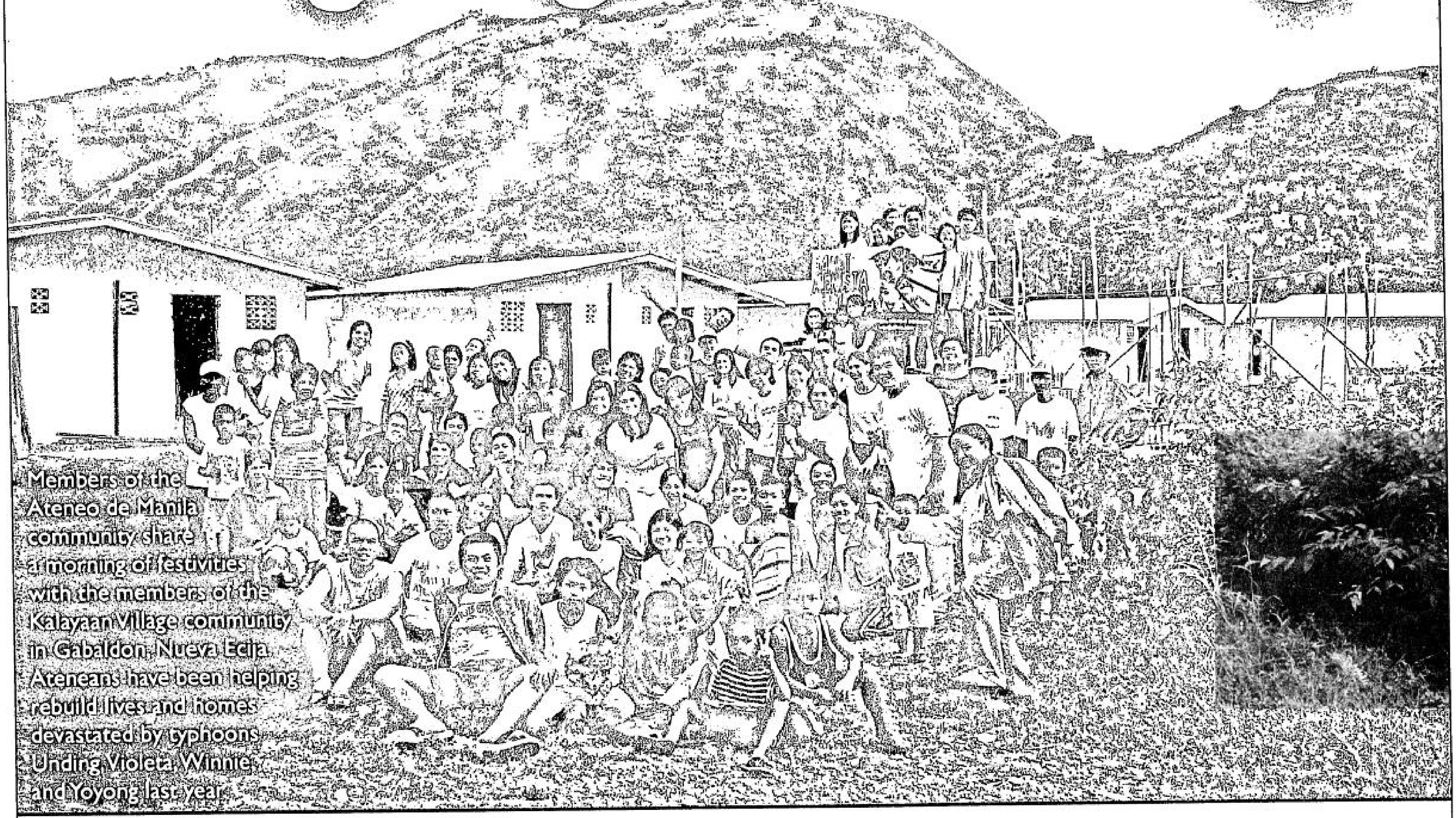
Promo period: November 4, 2005 to January 15, 2006. See flyers for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2618 Series of 2006.

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

ATENEO 150 IN 2009

Maging liwanag.



Members of the Ateneo de Manila community share a morning of festivities with the members of the Kalayaan Village community in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. Ateneans have been helping rebuild lives and homes devastated by typhoons Unding, Violeta, Winnie, and Yoyong last year.

> "As we move towards the Ateneo de Manila's 150th anniversary in 2009, we mark the countdown with a reflection on our mission and identity and on our particular times. In the midst of the continuing uncertainty and sense of darkness in our land, this supplement affirms our Commitment to Hope and our response to be *Lux in Domino*, Light in the Lord."

A COMMITMENT TO HOPE

It has been a year since typhoons Unding, Violeta, Winnie, and Yoyong devastated Aurora, Quezon, Nueva Ecija, and many other provinces in Luzon. We remember the heartrending images. We remember, too, the care and concern and the generous response of so many of our people.

On Saturday, November 19, we went to Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija to turn over 32 houses to victims of these typhoons. Together with the 32 houses turned over on June 12, this makes 64 out of 100 houses we are building in what is now called Kalayaan Village. A new Sibol Schoolhouse has also been built thanks to the Metrobank Foundation.

In the program, the beneficiaries sang a song whose lyrics and music captured the depth of their feeling and moved many of us to tears. Two verses say:

Wala ka bang napapansin, sa ating kapaligiran
Lahat halos ay nagtutulungan
Matanda, bata kahit may kapansanan.

Ang mga batang ngayon lang isinilang
May bahay na silang magigisnan
Ingatan natin at ito'y alagaan
At turuan sila ng tamang asal.

As we move towards the Ateneo de Manila's 150th anniversary in 2009, we mark the countdown with a reflection on our mission and identity and on our particular times. In the midst of the continuing uncertainty and sense of darkness in our land, this supplement affirms our Commitment to Hope and our response to be *Lux in Domino*, Light in the Lord. This was the theme of our Simbang Gabi 2004, when we invited our community not to give in to darkness, but to continue to hope, to be Light, *maging Liwanag*.

On our 146th anniversary, we celebrate our work in nurturing hope and love of country. Service has always been at the core of Ateneo life. Each member of the community contributes, and reaching out is at the heart of the programs of the Grade School, High School, Loyola Schools, and Professional Schools.

Our commitment to hope has borne fruit in many areas. We are grateful to the Ateneo community and to so many institutions and friends for their concern and generosity in supporting public education through the Ateneo Center for Educational Development and Pathways to Higher Education; public health through the Leaders for Health Program; the building of families, homes, and communities through Gawad Kalinga. What we have accomplished should give us energy and courage to pursue the more, the *magis*, that we aim for constantly.

It also comes back to us a hundredfold. During the brief program we had in Gabaldon, Monching Lopez of Team Gabaldon, our student group that has been going every weekend since April to help build homes, spoke of their experience. He told the story of one group member whose mother got concerned that he was giving so much time to GK in Gabaldon. "What will happen to your studies?" she worried. But at the end of the semester, to her surprise, he not only received honors for the first time, but received a scholarship as well. Our friends in Gabaldon smiled, happy that they have also been a grace to us. Many of our young volunteers speak with gratitude about finding meaning and direction in their lives. Families find that building homes together develops a deeper bonding. We understand in a new way the song of St. Francis, "It is in giving that we receive."

This supplement, then, is also a tribute to the many schools and communities where our commitment to hope has brought us. In these dark and uncertain times, they have also been grace and light to us, and have shown us that together, we can, if even only in little ways, bring light in the midst of darkness.

In gratitude to Jesus, our Lord, and Mary, our Mother,

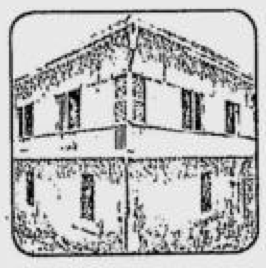
FR. BIENVENIDO F. NEBRES, S.J.
President, Ateneo de Manila University

TEAM GABALDON began when five sophomores joined the Ateneo contingent for a house build in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. What began as "*katuwaan lang* (just for fun)" has since grown into a vibrant community of over a hundred Ateneans and friends. They visit Kalayaan Village in Gabaldon and other GK sites regularly. They build homes, but more importantly, they live with the people, with whom they have forged intimate and enduring friendships. Team Gabaldon's inspiring, almost rabid example has drawn support for GK from many other individuals and groups inside and outside the Ateneo. They are a shining example of what it means to be *Lux in Domino*, Light in the Lord, to our people who continue to live in great uncertainty.

www.ateneo.edu

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY 146 Years of Service and Excellence

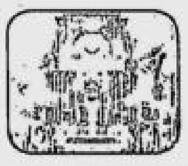
1850 — 1860 — 1870 — 1880 — 1890 — 1900 — 1910 — 1920



1859 Jesuit education returns to the Philippines when the City of Manila entrusts the administration of the *Escuela Municipal de Manila*, a public primary school, to Spanish Jesuits.

1865 The curriculum expands to include secondary education, and the *Escuela* is renamed *Ateneo Municipal de Manila*.

1877 Jose P. Rizal graduates with a *bachillerato*, a Bachelor of Arts, from the Ateneo.



1889 The San Ignacio Church is completed and consecrated.

1896 Outbreak of Philippine Revolution against Spain

On December 30, Jose P. Rizal is executed at Bagumbayan.

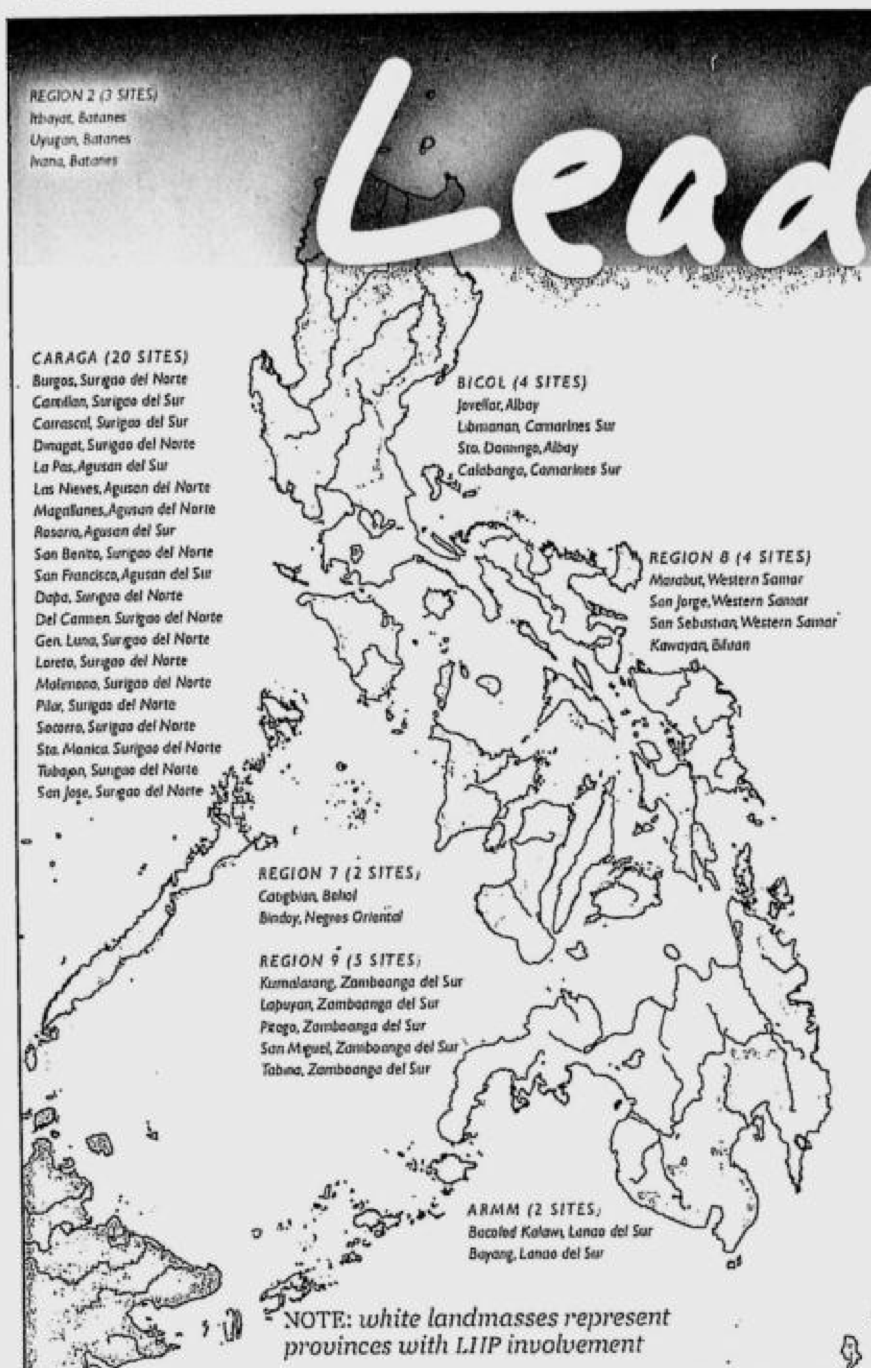
1898 War between the US and Spain. On June 12, the Philippines declares independence from Spain.

1901 The *Ateneo Municipal de Manila* becomes a private institution and is renamed *Ateneo de Manila*.

1912 The American Jesuits take over the administration of the Ateneo de Manila

1921 The American Jesuits of the Maryland-New York Province replace the last of the Spanish Jesuits in the Ateneo.

Lead health.


REGION 2 (3 SITES)
Itbayat, Batanes
Uyugan, Batanes
Ivana, Batanes
CARAGA (20 SITES)
Burgos, Surigao del Norte
Cantilan, Surigao del Sur
Carrascal, Surigao del Sur
Dinagat, Surigao del Norte
La Pas, Agusan del Sur
Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte
Magallanes, Agusan del Norte
Rosario, Agusan del Sur
San Benito, Surigao del Norte
San Francisco, Agusan del Sur
Dapa, Surigao del Norte
Del Carmen Surigao del Norte
Gen. Luna, Surigao del Norte
Loreto, Surigao del Norte
Malimono, Surigao del Norte
Pilar, Surigao del Norte
Socorro, Surigao del Norte
Sta. Monica Surigao del Norte
Tubajon, Surigao del Norte
San Jose, Surigao del Norte
BICOL (4 SITES)
Jovellar, Albay
Libmanan, Camarines Sur
Sto. Domingo, Albay
Calabanga, Camarines Sur
REGION 8 (4 SITES)
Marabut, Western Samar
San Jorge, Western Samar
San Sebastian, Western Samar
Kawayan, Biliran
REGION 7 (2 SITES)
Catigbian, Bohol
Bindoy, Negros Oriental
REGION 9 (5 SITES)
Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur
Lapuyan, Zamboanga del Sur
Pitogo, Zamboanga del Sur
San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur
Tabina, Zamboanga del Sur
ARMM (2 SITES)
Bacolod Kalawi, Lanao del Sur
Bayang, Lanao del Sur

NOTE: *white landmasses represent provinces with LHP involvement*

LEADERS FOR HEALTH PROGRAM: STORIES FROM THE FIELD

In the midst of the diaspora of Filipino health professionals, one program aims to stem the tide by providing incentives for doctors to work and remain in poor municipalities, and to address the fundamental and systemic causes of poor health conditions in the countryside.

The Leaders for Health Program envisions an overall improvement in health through a systematic and comprehensive approach that engages all the stakeholders in health, especially in local communities. The LHP provides comprehensive competence building for the local leaders that can reshape the health structure in the community: the Municipal Health Officer, the Local Chief Executive, and local community leaders. By educating and forming a corps of leaders who collectively provide strategic and effective leadership for health at the local level, the LHP reshapes the way people feel, think, and behave about health.

A little more than three years after it began, the LHP is now present in 40 fourth and fifth class municipalities in 13 provinces in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Using the model of a multi-stakeholder approach, the program has been able to effectively harness the collective strength of these key players and has begun to create lasting change in their community's health sector.

In addition, 43 Filipino doctors have deepened their commitment to serving the country in their respective areas of assignment. Fifteen of them have completed their Master's Degree in Community Health Management from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business. All of them continue to provide much needed medical services to underserved communities, as well as assume leadership roles wherever they are.

LEADERS FOR HEALTH PROGRAM PARTNERS

- *Pfizer, Inc. (Philippines)*
- *Pfizer Foundation (New York)*
- *Department of Health*

LHP ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased executive budgets for health in LHP areas. Whether it is the modest 11.13% increase in the health budget of Bindoy, Negros Oriental, the 50.20% increase in Dapa, Surigao Del Norte, or the 123.52% increase in Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Sur, these increments have allowed the purchase of more medicine and equipment and the renovation of the Rural Health Units.
- Increased resource mobilization initiatives of mayors for health projects such as water system development, health education initiatives, and sanitation, especially in Surigao Del Norte, Zamboanga Del Sur, and Negros Oriental
- Municipal Health Officers are represented in local executive bodies. This representation ensures that healthbecomes a priority in many decisions made by the local boards.
- Activation of the Local Health Board and broadened membership to include community representatives, particularly in the LHP areas of Lanao Del Sur, Surigao Del Norte, Agusan Del Sur, Zamboanga Del Sur and Albay
- Increased advocacy with the *Sangguniang Bayan* (SB)through the SB Committee on Health. Through the joint efforts of doctors, mayors and the SB, many health related resolutions and ordinances—such as those on salt iodization, Philhealth registration, sanitation, and the adoption of the LHP in the barangays—have been passed.
- Prioritization of health projects in the executive-legislative agenda of municipalities, indicating an increased commitment to health
- Increased visibility and presence of mayors in barangays, through face to face consultations and assemblies, where people have the opportunity to articulate community problems and aspirations
- Funds coming from Philhealth premiums have supplemented the budget of accredited Rural Health Units. These resources were used for additional equipment, operations, and personnel incentives.

DR. JOSELITO MONTALBAN volunteered to serve in Malimono, Surigao del Norte, a coastal town of 15,000 people accessible through a difficult and dangerous route from Surigao City. To address the lack of accessibility during emergencies, Montalban helped mobilize Malimono's Movers Club, the town's cooperative, to seek funding for a project called *Banca sa Barrio*. It takes about an hour to sail to the nearest hospital in Surigao City. *Banca sa Barrio* involved the acquisition of two ambulance boats and the setting up of a fish trading business. The earnings of the business are used for the boats' maintenance, purchase of medicine and additional budget for health awareness campaign materials.

LEADERS FOR HEALTH PROGRAM
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PHONE (+63.2) 899.7691 local 2106 TELEFAX (+63.2)898.0354
EMAIL leadersforhealth@yahoo.com URL www.leadersforhealth.ph
CONTACT Dr. Raymundo S. Baquiran, M.D., M.P.H., *Program Director*

Develop education.

Many students at Bagong Silangan Elementary School used to sit on mats or on the floor because most of the classrooms did not have any chairs.

Thanks to the persistence of the school principal, all the classrooms now have enough chairs, and a photo such as this will only be a reminder of the past.

ATENEO CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT: CLOSING GAPS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

The Ateneo de Manila University established the Ateneo Center for Educational Development (ACED) in 1997 to respond to the call of "closing gaps"— the gap between our country and our Asian neighbors, and the gap between the Ateneo and Philippine public schools.

The Center focuses on four major areas of educational development:

- Teacher Training and Development
- Management Development for Schools
- Research and Development
- Curriculum, Textbook, and Instructional Material Development.

Its flagship program, the ACED Public School Teacher Training Program (PSTTP), provides public school teachers with opportunities to improve their content development and instruction skills. This gives participants a stronger sense of proper instruction and classroom management, and enables them to create more effective learning environments. Since 1997, the ACED has trained a total of 1,730 public school teachers in about 14 Department of Education divisions in Metro Manila, Laguna, Pampanga, Aklan, Kabankalan City (Negros Occidental), and Davao City.

The ACED has also realized that training school principals is as important as training teachers, as this addresses the problem of managing scarce school resources and ensures the sustainability of reform programs. Therefore, this year, the ACED has expanded its programs to include the development and training of public school administrators as organizational professionals through its Principal Empowerment Program (PEP) for public elementary and secondary schools.

In addition to its training programs, the ACED maintains an active, hands-on presence in the public schools and communities of Payatas B Annex, Payatas C (Madja-as), Lupang Pangako and Bagong Silangan Elementary Schools.

Corollary to this work, the ACED aims to engage in research that helps other institutions create their own programs for public education. The ACED's recent research project, "The Local School Board: Managing Local Reforms in Education," studies four cases of Local School Boards that have managed, developed, and sustained programs that uplift the quality of public education in their localities. These are Naga City for Luzon, Kabankalan City for Visayas, Island Garden City of Samal for Mindanao, and Marikina City for NCR. The study analyzes important issues in reforming public education and good governance, such as the role of leadership in reform, approaches to a more participatory process of reform, and transparency and accountability in resource mobilization, generation, and utilization.

In all of the ACED's undertakings—in its Professional Training Programs, its school and community based work, and research endeavors—it actively promotes the upliftment of public education through the collaboration of all stakeholders. This drive for unity has enabled the Ateneo de Manila to extend its resources to more teachers, school principals, and schools. Indeed, the burden becomes light if everyone helps carry the basket.

PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS

- *Department of Education*
- *City Governments of Caloocan, Makati, Malabon/Navotas, Manila, Marikina, Muntinlupa, Parañaque, Pasig/San Juan, Quezon City, Valenzuela, and Kabankalan (Negros Occidental)*
- *Municipality of Paete (Laguna)*
- *House Representatives*
  Harry Angping (Manila)
  Rodolfo Bacani (Manila)
  Anna York Bondoc (Pampanga)
  Federico Sandoval II (Malabon/Navotas)

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS

- *Washington Z. Sycip*
- *Alfredo M. Velayo*
- *BPI Foundation*
- *CENTEX-Luisita (Tarlac)*
- *Coca-Cola Foundation*
- *DLSU-Operation Big Brothers*
- *Foundation for Information Technology, Education and Development (FIT-ED)*
- *Godofredo P. Ramos Foundation*
- *Manila Teachers Savings and Loans Association*
- *Makati Business Club*
- *Makati Rotary Club and the Makati Rotary Club Foundation*
- *Metrobank Foundation*
- *Paetenians Alliance for Education and Technology (PAETech Foundation)*
- *Petron Foundation*
- *Phinma Foundation*
- *Quezon City Science High School Class of 1981, Inc.*
- *Ramon A. Yulo Foundation*
- *Salome L. Tan Foundation*
- *The Insular Life Assurance Co., Ltd*
- *Wharton-Penn Club of the Philippines*

ACED SUCCESS STORIES

- In 2003, Payatas B Annex had 4 classrooms for 840 students. Thanks to the Quezon City government, the DepEd Social Expenditure Management Project (SEMP), former Congressman Chuck Mathay, and Hon. Annie Susano, it now has 15 classrooms with provisions for a library and a clinic. Also, 100% of its teachers have undergone training in the Ateneo in Math, English, Science, and IT.
- Lupang Pangako, formerly the 95th out of 96 Quezon City public schools now ranks 18th based on a sample of its Grade 6 students.
- Payatas C, whose surrounding community suffers from drug proliferation and domestic violence, is being rebuilt and held together by committed parents who bought textbooks and workbooks instead of constructing a waiting shed.
- Thanks to the determination of students, parents and teachers, Bagong Silangan's student athletes—clad only in slippers and without equipment—placed second in basketball during the Unit Athletic Meet, when they competed against all schools in District 2 of Quezon City, including Novaliches. The school, which has 6,000 children, now also has a new four storey building, so pupils no longer need to hold classes on the school stage and in makeshift classrooms in their covered courts.

HELP DEVELOP EDUCATION

Be a facilitator, a volunteer, or a funding partner for ACED programs, which include

- *Professional training programs for teachers, school principals, and supervisors*
- *Capability-building workshops within communities and schools*
- *Special projects and events like improving school facilities and literacy tutorials*

ATENEO CENTER FOR EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
3/F, Hoffner Building, Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University
Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108, Philippines
PHONE (+63.2)426.6001 local 4017 or 4018 TELEFAX (+63.2)426.5693
EMAIL aced@admu.edu.ph
CONTACT Anne Lan Kagahastian-Candelaria, *Director*

1930 — 1940 — 1950 — 1960 — 1970 — 1980 — 1990 — 2000

1932 Fire razes Intramuros, and the Ateneo transfers to Padre Faura.

1941 The Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, bringing World War II to the Pacific Theatre. The Ateneo ROTC refuses to disband, and joins the Philippine Army in Bataan.

1945 Following American liberation, the Ateneo reopens temporarily in Plaza Guipit, Sampaloc. The following year, the Ateneo returns to Padre Faura.

1952 The College and High School Departments transfer to Loyola Heights, Quezon City. The Grade School follows in 1954.

1958 The administration of the Ateneo is given to the new Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus.

1959 The Ateneo de Manila obtains university status with Fr. Francisco Araneta, S.J. as Rector.

1964 Father General appoints Ateneo alumnus Fr. Horacio de la Costa, S.J. as the first Filipino Provincial of the Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus.

1972 Proclamation 1081 declares the country under martial law.

1973 The School of Arts and Sciences becomes co-educational.

1977 The Ateneo Professional Schools relocates to Salcedo Village, Makati.

1986 People Power topples the Marcos dictatorship.

1998 The Ateneo Professional Schools relocates to Rockwell Center in Makati.

2000 The Ateneo School of Arts and Sciences is restructured into the four Loyola Schools.

2002 The Church of the Gesù is completed and dedicated.

2005 The 146th Anniversary of the Ateneo de Manila University

Create pathways.

Pathways to Higher Education Philippines began, in April 2002, as a new education development program of the Ateneo de Manila University supported by the Ford and Synergeia Foundations. Pathways empowers academically gifted but financially underprivileged college students to complete their education through a practical and comprehensive support program.

Many talented students lack academic preparation, family income, self-esteem, and educational resources. Even when given traditional scholarships, these students often drop out of school. Pathways endows its participants with academic support, learning activities and resources designed to form the skills required to finish college. Pathways also develops relationships with participant families through mutual support group organizing, livelihood development, and values formation programs.

Collaboration is crucial to the success of Pathways. Partnerships with schools, government, businesses, socio-civic organizations, and individuals nurture Pathways, and give various sectors of society opportunities to contribute.

In November 2005, Pathways, together with the Synergeia Foundation, launched *Educ8 to Liberate*, an advocacy movement that aims to raise youth awareness of problems in Philippine education and to inspire them to enact concrete solutions and to volunteer in education reform programs.

Pathways now has 37 youth groups all over the Philippines coordinated by offices in Metro Manila, Baguio, Bulacan, Iloilo, and South Cotabato. They conduct tutorials, computer literacy workshops, book drives, and other activities that support Pathways programs. Pathways believes that young Filipinos have the power to make things happen. Their passion and commitment inspire hope and help create pathways towards a brighter future for the Philippines.

PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

- *Assumption College*
- *Centro Escolar University*
- *De La Salle University*
- *Far Eastern University*
- *Lyceum of the Philippines*
- *Miriam College*
- *St. Scholastica's College*
- *University of Asia and the Pacific*
- *University of the East*
- *University of Santo Tomas*
- *University of the Philippines*
- *Philippine Normal University*
- *Polytechnic University of the Philippines*

OTHER COLLABORATORS

- *Ayala Foundation*
- *Ayala Foundation U.S.A.*
- *Children's Hour, Philippines*
- *Charity First Foundation*
- *Cultural Center of the Philippines*
- *JCAP Scholarship*
- *JG Summit Group of Companies*
- *The Manila Times*
- *Newsbreak Magazine*
- *Smart Communications*
- *St. Louis University (Baguio)*
- *West Visayas State University*
- *Notre Dame of Marbel University*
- *Provincial Government of Bulacan*
- *Rotary Club of Loyola Heights*
- *Manila Diamond Hotel*

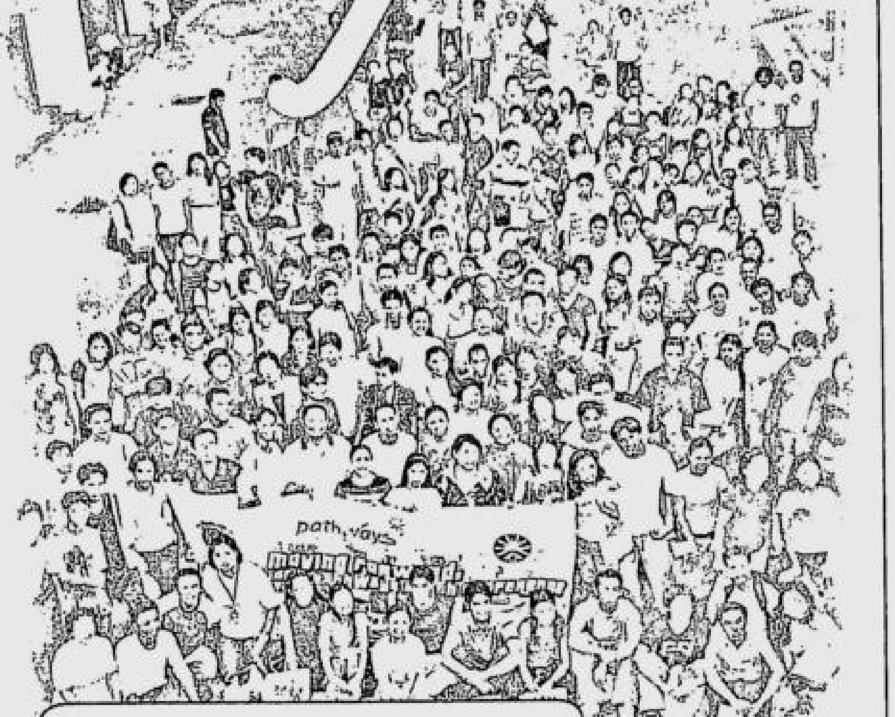
HELP BUILD PATHWAYS

>> *Be a Ninong/Ninang*
Help pave the way for a student's education by providing for his tuition and miscellaneous fees

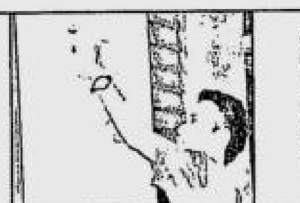
>> *Be a Volunteer Teacher*
Teach the students at our weekly tutorials

>> *Be a Writer/Events Organizer*
We welcome writers and events planners who can gather more supporters and raise funds for the students

>> *Be a Spokesperson*
Help raise awareness of the program and get more people to champion the cause of education



Immediately after graduating from the Ateneo de Manila University in 2000, Harvey S. Keh worked as a Student Activities Project Officer at the Ateneo college, and soon began teaching Theology. Under his guidance, some of his students established Alay ni Ignacio (ANI), which aims to help public high school students in academics. To support ANI, Harvey looked for sponsors and NGOs who supported their cause. At the age of 22, Harvey became the youngest Ford Foundation grantee in the world, and used the grant to establish Pathways to Higher Education Philippines, of which he is now Director.



ARCHIE DOLIT is the son of a taho vendor and a laundrywoman. On his last year in high school, he was told by his parents they didn't have the means to support him through college. Crushed, but still very much determined, Archie worked hard and found himself part of the Pathways to Higher Education program. Archie is now a junior at the Ateneo de Manila, taking up Electronics and Communications Engineering. Soon, his dreams of making a better life for himself and for his family will finally become a reality.

PATHWAYS TO HIGHER EDUCATION PHILIPPINES
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EMAIL pathways@admu.edu.ph URL www.pathwaysphilippines.org
CONTACT Solvie Nubla *or* Carissa Villanueva

Build a new Philippines.

Gawad Kalinga (GK) is a radical and successful Filipino development model with a clear and simple vision for a new Philippines: *No more slums. No more violence. No more poverty.*

This seemingly unattainable dream began as a daring initiative of Couples for Christ in 2001 but has since inspired the staunch support of organizations and individuals from various sectors in the Philippines and from around the world. Their solidarity and heroic generosity have been transforming lives, redefining hope, and raising dignity. To date, GK champions have built around 16,000 homes and developed almost 600 communities nationwide. GK has been so successful that it has begun to share its programs with other countries.

GK is *bayanihan* in its truest sense, as it inspires all of its stakeholders to become heroes, together and for each other. The poverty that breeds society's grave ills—crime and violence, graft and corruption, illiteracy and ignorance—is slowly coming to an end at the hands of GK heroes. Village by village, the wounds that divide rich and poor begin to heal because of *Gawad Kalinga*, which means "bestowing care", or "a gift of love."

The spirit of this rapid and massive campaign against poverty is intimately aligned with the Ateneo de Manila University's aim to form persons with and for others, and whose faith struggles for justice. Therefore, in 2003, the Ateneo adopted GK as its first and only university-wide social development program.

To date, the university has taken the lead in building two communities: Blue Eagle Village in Payatas Trese and Kalayaan Village in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija. The Ateneo is currently preparing to begin work in its third and largest GK community, Sitio Ruby in Fairview. Furthermore, Ateneans have worked in many other GK communities, and have been instrumental in bringing new GK partner organizations into the fold. Ateneans have helped fuel GK's tremendous success with their infectious energy, inspiring compassion, and competent expertise.

GK-ATENEO PARTNERS

- *The Ateneo de Manila community: students, organizations, faculty, parents, staff, administrators, friends*
- *Ambassador Alberto Del Rosario*
- *Anel Family*
- *Ateneo Alumni Association*
- *Ateneo High School Batch 2006 Parents & Students*
- *Ateneo High School Batch 2007 Parents & Students*
- *Baliwag Navigation, Inc.*
- *Benjamin Ledesma*
- *Center for Filipino Americans*
- *Central Bank of the Philippines*
- *Del Bennet & Friends*
- *Department of Interior & Local Government*
- *Department of Social Welfare & Development*
- *Dr. & Mrs. Engracio Samala*
- *Dr. Jesus Palma*
- *Dulaang Sibol*
- *East West Seeds*
- *Far Eastern University-Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation*
- *Generali Pilipinas*
- *GK Youth Great Adventure Tour Delegates from USA*
- *Gov. & Mrs. Amando Tetangco, Jr.*
- *Isabela Cultural Cooperation*
- *J.M. Mendoza Enterprises*
- *Jeanne Ng Stynes*
- *Jesuit Missions Office (Germany)*
- *Jesuit Residence*
- *Jovino Lorenzo, Jr.*
- *Loyola Schools staff & administrators*
- *Manulife Philippines*
- *Mario Garcia*
- *Maxicare*
- *McCann-Erickson (Philippines)*
- *Metrobankers Foundation*
- *Micarella Mariz Gabriel*
- *Michael Escaler*
- *Michael Sy Chua*
- *Miguel Jose Valencia*
- *Mr & Mrs Hector Tagaysay*
- *Mr. & Mrs. Alfonso Tagaysay*
- *Mr. & Mrs. Enriquez Melencio*
- *Ninoy and Cory Aquino Center for Leadership and Change*
- *Payatas B Annex Elementary School*
- *PCI Leasing & Finance*
- *Renato De Guzman*
- *Rotary Club of Makati-North*
- *Ateneo Simbang Gabi 2004*
- *School of Mathematics & Computing, CIT, Cork, Ireland*
- *St. Michael's College of Laguna*
- *Swiss Reinsurance Company*
- *Anonymous donors*
- *SYLFF Delegates*

HELP GK BUILD A NEW PHILIPPINES

>> Volunteer to build houses in any GK site

>> Spend time with the families during weekends

>> Volunteer as a pre-school teacher in our SIBOL preschool

>> Celebrate your birthday in a GK village, organize field trips or form children's choirs for the children of GK communities

>> Organize/conduct dance, music, reading, theatre, and sports workshops for SAGIP and SIGA programs for young people in GK communities

>> Raise funds for GK programs

>> Create term papers/theses/projects on GK

>> Encourage colleagues, friends, and family to visit GK sites and to witness the miracles that are taking place there

BLUE EAGLE VILLAGE

>> 170 of 200 houses are complete, along with a new and fully equipped two storey health center

>> Ateneo High School students continue to build homes every week, and hold exposure trips celebrate the birthdays with the Blue Eagle Village children every month

>> Various Ateneo student organizations conduct workshops that aim to develop the talents of local youth

>> Ateneo professionals train village leaders to help them organize and develop a self-sustaining community

KALAYAAN VILLAGE

>> Typhoon-stricken families in Gabaldon have now settled in 64 new homes out of a projected 100

>> A SIBOL preschool has been constructed in partnership with Metrobank

ISANG MILYONG BAYANI

GK-Ateneo's student arm, GK Youth-Ateneo (GKY-A) has been actively participating in GK programs and supports the national GK Youth movement which advocates massive youth involvement in nation building. The flagship project of GK Youth is Isang Milyong Bayani (1MB), which aims to mobilize one million young people nationwide to build in GK sites on February 25, 2006, the 20th anniversary of the EDSA People Power Revolution.

ACE ELE, one of Team Gabaldon's 'captains', has been in the Ateneo since Prep. Through the High School's programs, he encountered public school teachers and students in Montalban, senior citizens in Golden Acres, and Bilibid inmates. These encounters moved him to commit to a life offered to others. Ace also shares that his passion for service springs from gratitude. He has been a scholar since first year high school and has been given the opportunity to continue his Ateneo education through the kindness of many benefactors and would therefore like to repay them through acts of generosity and service.

GAWAD KALINGA-ATENEO DE MANILA COORDINATING OFFICE
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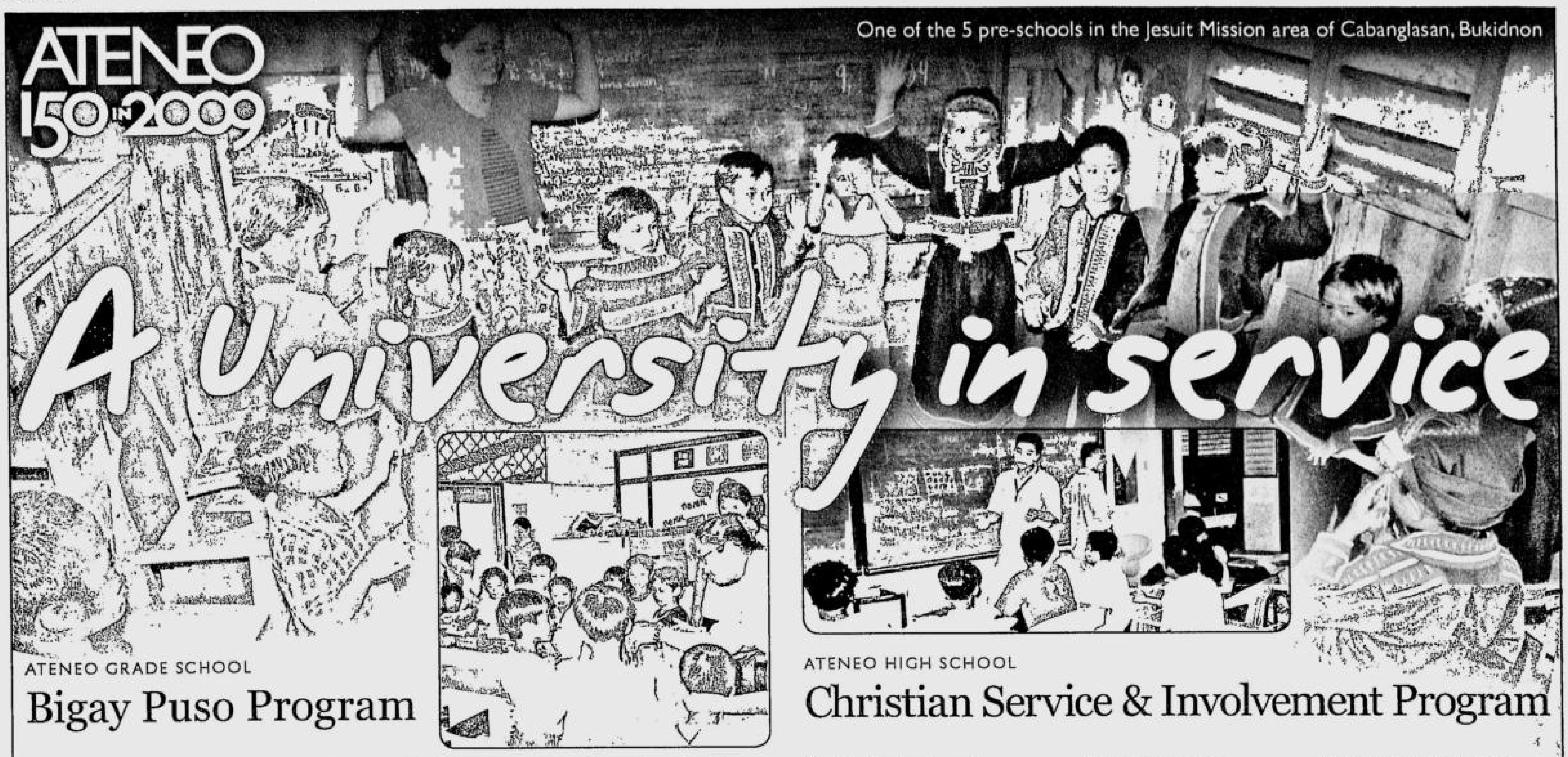
EMAIL gkateneo@yahoo.com URL http://www.ateneo.edu/gk
CONTACT Stephanie A. Limuaco, *Coordinator*

ATENEO 150 IN 2009

A University in service



One of the 5 pre-schools in the Jesuit Mission area of Cabanglasan, Bukidnon

ATENEO GRADE SCHOOL

Bigay Puso Program

Eight years of Grade School is the beginning of the formation of an Atenean—a person-for-others. The Ateneo de Manila Grade School—through the generous support of Grade Level Coordinators, parent volunteers, faculty, staff and maintenance—plants seeds that hopefully blossom into a life of compassion and service. Depending on their age and readiness, students receive opportunities to be aware of what is happening around them and to think of ways they can reach out, especially to other children in need.

The Ateneo Grade School formation program is called *Bigay Puso*, and it is all about giving what gives life, giving love, giving one's self.

At the Primary School, activities focus on sharing and having fun together. In the Preparatory Level, students host parties where they play games and share meals with children from Olandes, Marikina. In Grade 1, students and their parents work to help pre-school children in the Jesuit Mission Area of Cabanglasan, Bukidnon, where Fr. Mateo Sanchez, S.J. has five pre-schools scattered across the mountains. The funds they raise help train para-teachers who help develop basic literacy skills using the Bukidnon children's experiences and indigenous culture. Meanwhile, Grade 2 boys learn the value of sacrifice when they give part of their allowance for the Christmas party of 200 public school children from Loyola Heights. They also sponsor the First Holy Communion of public school children from the Santa Maria della Strada Parish. Grade 3 students reach out to children from another Jesuit mission area in Bukidnon by helping Fr. Adriano Tapiador, S.J. put up a multipurpose covered court in Zamboanguita.

Upon reaching Middle School, students get to leave campus to visit their Bigay Puso partners. They also take a more active role in planning fund-raising activities. In Grade 4, each section takes care of a scholar from Payatas; while each class in Grade 5, in partnership with the Philippine Jesuit Prison Service, pools resources for the scholarships of children of inmates, some of whom are on death row. Grade 6 students work with Jesuit chaplains at the Philippine General Hospital. They plan projects to help the children of Wards 9 and 11 and other children who have cancer.

The past two batches of Grade 7 have been working with the Mangyan Mission. Batch 2003-2004 put up a study hall for Mangyan scholars in Oriental Mindoro. Batch 2004-2005 furnished the hall with shelves, desks, books and other learning materials. The graduating class of 2006 is working to lay the foundations of a Gawad Kalinga community. They hope to interact with GK families and participate in house builds and the Sibol pre-school program of a GK village in Payatas.

ATENEO HIGH SCHOOL

Christian Service & Involvement Program

The Christian Service and Involvement Program (CSIP) of the Ateneo de Manila High School aims to expose all High School students to the realities of the world outside the classroom, that they may appreciate their blessings and heed Christ's call to serve Him through His people.

The CSIP draws on an Ignatian pedagogical paradigm. More than simply providing experiences, the CSIP invites each student to process and reflect on their experiences, and calls them to action. The CSIP handles social involvement for the first three years of High School as a prelude to the senior year Tulong Dunong program.

In the Freshman Exposure Program, students visit charitable institutions such as the Asilo de San Vicente de Paul, the Silong Tanglaw Foundation, the Reception and Study Center for Children, Boys' Home, Foundling Home, Bukid Kabataan, and communities like the Gawad Kalinga Blue Eagle Village in Payatas Trese.

Sophomores serve in institutions of their choice for 7 to 8 weekends. Some of these institutions are Create Responsive Babies by Sharing (CRIBS Philippines); the Kaisahang Buhay Foundation in Barangay Escopa, Cubao; Luwalhati ng Maynila and Golden Acres; Boys' Home; and Silong Tanglaw.

The Immersion Program invites juniors to live for one weekend with a family in rural communities like Sapang Palay Areas F and G in Bulacan and Cabangan in Zambales, or in urbanized rural communities like Payatas Uno in Quezon City and the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa. During immersion, students experience what it is like to be a typical Filipino, who must struggle in order to satisfy basic needs. Juniors also help build Gawad Kalinga houses at the GK Blue Eagle Village in Payatas Trese, while their parents raise funds through donations, concerts, and other creative projects.

TULONG-DUNONG Tulong-Dunong (TD) is the heart of the integrated fourth year religion and social studies program of the Ateneo High School. Seniors spend an hour a week tutoring public elementary school students in English or Mathematics. For an entire school year, each Ateneo High School senior is responsible for four Grade 5 or Grade 6 students.

Fr. James O'Brien, S.J. conceptualized TD in 1975 as a program for mutual development. The aim of the TD experience is that TD kids from public schools may learn and grow along with their Ateneo High School *kuyas*. The public school children receive crucial supplementary education in Math and English, which gives them a critical advantage in high school and college. Their engagement with the Ateneo and with Ateneans also helps expand their horizons and inspire them to excel and complete their education. Meanwhile, Atenean tutors witness for themselves the poverty and the social problems that they study in their religion and social studies classes. This encounter invites them to orient their dreams and fledgling plans towards lives of service. Both TD kids and TD tutors witness a world which they otherwise might not see, and the TD experience continues to be a catalyst for profound transformation and empowerment. TD supports its public school tutorial program with the Tulong Dunong Scholarship Program (TDSP), which provides talented TD kids with high school scholarships. There are 157 TD scholars for the school year 2005-2006: 50 in the Ateneo, 42 in Miriam and 65 in St. Scholastica's Academy.

LOYOLA SCHOOLS

Forming Socially Responsible Leaders

The formation of students into socially responsible professionals and leaders who will move both material and human resources towards the common good and thereby contribute to national development and social transformation towards a more progressive, just, and equitable society is a central component of the purposes and aims of the Loyola Schools. Thus, students are provided with many opportunities to be of service to others, especially the underprivileged. Throughout their college years, students participate in a holistic and integrated formation program that helps them to understand the problems of Philippine society and develop a commitment to contribute to its betterment within their spheres of professional competence and expertise.

Formation begins in freshman year in the Introduction to Ateneo Culture and Traditions (INTACT) class, with visits to Ateneo community development sites such as the Gawad Kalinga Blue Eagle Village in Payatas Trese. In the NSTP Program of sophomore year, students participate in community development programs like tree planting, GK house builds, feeding programs, and literacy tutorials for public elementary and high school students in poor communities. Juniors undergo the Ateneo Labor Trials Program (ALTP) in their philosophy classes where, through experiential learning, they gain an understanding of issues and problems in the labor sector. In the immersion program of their theology classes, seniors live and work in poor communities for two and a half days, in order to better understand the social forces that contribute to poverty and injustice. In all of these programs, which are facilitated by the Loyola Schools Office for Social Concern and Involvement (OSCI), every experience is followed by processing and reflection. These experiences develop compassion for the poor and a desire to be of service in improving the quality of lives and in working towards a more just society.

Students also serve directly in community development activities through the *Gawad Kalinga* and *Alay ni Ignacio* (ANI)/Pathways programs and through various student organizations, especially the Socially-Oriented Organizations of the Ateneo (SOA). In the Ateneo Catechetical Instruction League (ACIL), which celebrates its centennial this year, students give catechetical instruction to children in poor communities. The Ateneo Christian Life Community (ACLC), Ateneo Student Catholic Action (AtSCA), and *Kaingin* provide students the opportunity to serve urban poor communities through tutoring classes and other community development work. *Kythe* Ateneo gives psychosocial support to cancer-stricken children and their families. *Musmos* members help street children in the Cubao and Katipunan areas, especially with values education. *Tugon* members volunteer in institutions that care for children who are survivors of abandonment and abuse. *ENTABLADO* (Enterteynment para sa Tao, Bayan, Lansangan, at Diyos) stages plays that develop awareness of social issues and gives urban poor youth groups theater workshops aimed at helping raise their self-confidence and sense of self-worth. *Gabay* scholars give enrichment and supplementary classes to public school students in Quezon City and Marikina. SPEED (Special Education Society) members work with special children with autism, Down's Syndrome, cerebral palsy, and other physical disabilities. Youth for Christ-Ateneo (YFC-Ateneo) members focus on nurturing the spiritual development of children from urban poor communities. These and many other Ateneo student organizations help form Ateneans who are *men and women with and for others*, with a passion to serve and to love.

ATENEO PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS

Professionals for the Frontlines

The Ateneo Professional Schools (APS) consists of four institutions of higher learning, and provides the staging area whereby the Ateneo de Manila University fulfills its mission of greater service, forming strong leaders committed to the public good, and creating institutions that build communities and the nation. The students and faculty of the APS move in and out of worlds that directly influence development, specifically law, business, information, governance and health. The four institutions of the APS share the goal of training and forming students who attain the highest standards of excellence through rigorous and systematic programs of study. Over and above this is the unrelenting effort by all APS units to live out that excellence in the service of country by consciously rooting and orienting all learning to respond to the needs and challenges of poverty that many Filipinos confront daily.

The Ateneo Law School (ALS), through its Juris Doctor program and various centers for legal scholarship and service, forms future lawyers who possess a thorough grasp of the nature and the ends of the law and who are aware of the role of law as an instrument of service towards individuals and society. The Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB) is committed to forming excellent managers and leaders who steer their organizations to success without losing sight of the role of business in nation building. The Leaders for Health Program of its Health Unit builds capacity among different stakeholders in health in poor municipalities. The Ateneo School of Government (ASG) reshapes and forms leaders whose efforts contribute to better governance with programs targeted towards public leadership reform and capability building, especially among local government units. The Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health (ASMPH), set to open its Professional Phase in June 2007, is dedicated to molding the doctor of the future as an outstanding clinician, dynamic manager, and social catalyst.

ATENEO LAW SCHOOL

Since 1936, the Law School has remained true to its mission of forming "men and women not only skilled in the science and art of the law, but imbued with the burning passion for justice and the fervent desire to serve others." The past decades have seen the ALS stand out in the Philippine legal and judicial landscape. Many of its graduates form the ranks of the Judiciary, from municipal trial courts to the Supreme Court, and play significant roles in both public and private institutions.

More significantly, the ALS encourages and invites its students to pursue alternative careers as lawyers in socially-oriented arenas such as human rights advocacy. Thus, its curriculum does not only consist of the fundamentals of the science and the art of the law, but highlights components of alternative lawyering.

The ALS has set up and continues to support two important centers, the Ateneo Human Rights Center (AHRC) and the Ateneo Legal Service Center (ALSC), venues that provide students with exposure and learning that heighten their awareness and reflection on alternative lawyering. For over a decade now, the AHRC has been implementing its Summer Internship Program, which exposes student interns to human rights advocacy and encourages them to work actively in the field of human rights. The ALSC, on the other hand, provides more opportunities for students to participate in legal aid programs that render service to indigent clients through student-volunteers who work in partnership with volunteer alumni-lawyers. The ALS is also at the forefront of current developments in the world of law through the Center of Continuing Legal Education and Research (CCLER) and the Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee Center of the Rule of Law.

ATENEO GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

The Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB), established in 1966, responds to the professional business education needs of young professionals, middle managers, senior executives, and career men and women in various positions of power and authority in private and public business organizations. As a business school, the AGSB'S thrust is to be *Primus Inter Pares*, "first among equals," recognizing that its students come from the ranks of working professionals, and who, regardless of position, are considered leaders and change agents in their respective organizations.

As it strives to provide its students with the best knowledge and skills in business management and administration, the AGSB firmly commits itself to a unique value proposition that emphasizes that business is not only for profit, but for building the nation. Hence, in 2004, the AGSB launched its *Mulat Diwa* Program, a fundamental component of learning for the students, faculty, and staff of the AGSB. This initiative builds on and enriches the MBA program by engaging the students and challenging them to identify ways by which they may influence their workplaces and to build communities to navigate their organizations towards success while being propelled by the conviction that profit is an enabling tool to be used in the service of nation building.

The AGSB also actively advocates strategic philanthropy by using its strengths as a learning institution and leveraging its partnerships to reach out and make a positive impact on larger populations. It has established partnerships with the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines and the Cooperative Institute to respond to the continuing management education requirements of officers from various rural banks and cooperatives nationwide. The AGSB also provides Business Faculty Development Courses for 5 universities and colleges within and outside Metro Manila. In doing all these, the AGSB forms men and women who are not only well-informed business people, but are, more importantly, fully human, with a profound understanding of their relationship with their countrymen and with God.

ATENEO SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT

The ASG has faithfully adhered to its mission of forming leaders rooted in ethical leadership, who uphold integrity, competence, and commitment in their day-to-day activities. Through the school's programs, the ASG produces graduates who are effective leaders, who take part in building responsive institutions in government, and who work in solidarity with an empowered citizenry. The ASG also engages the business and non-government sectors by seeking to build their awareness of the workings of government, and thereby, increase their participation in nation-building.

Aside from its public degree program offerings, the ASG, through its Jaime V. Ongpin (JVO) Executive Education program, offers courses that seek to foster cooperation between private and public sectors toward national development. The ASG also conducts Leadership and Governance Programs consisting of three key elements: the Leadership Sanctuary, where public officials may come together for mutual support in advocating value-driven reform programs; the certificate course in Leadership and Development; and Leadership Research, which seeks to orient its students on the fundamental elements of public service. Through its "G-Watch Project," the ASG partners with different national and local government organizations in developing effective and efficient systems for bidding, procurement, and distribution of resources.

ATENEO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The ASMPH was conceived in 1997 as a learning institution that produces doctors of the future. Drawing from the collective strengths and expertise of its partner training hospital, The Medical City, the Loyola Schools, and the Health Unit of the AGSB, the ASMPH is committed to addressing pressing needs of society by forming physician-leaders. Rooted in the belief that health defines life and its quality, the ASMPH will produce outstanding clinician practitioners who are leaders and dynamic managers, and who possess a systemic and more connected view and understanding of health and health systems. The Ateneo doctor will embody the Ignatian tradition of understanding and appreciating health in relation to persons, to communities, to populations, and to society.